

JUNE 2007  
\$4.95

THE AUSSIE SIDEWINDER  
Q&A WITH PETER MOYLAN

# CHOICE *Talk*

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE ATLANTA BRAVES

THE  
GM'S QUARTERS  
VISITING JOHN & KAREN  
SCHUERHOLZ

## FRANCHISE ICON

LOOKING BACK ON THE EVENTS  
DIRECTING SMOLTZ DOWN  
A UNIQUE PATH

CHIPPER'S HOT START  
SLOWED BY INJURY



# WELCOME TO THE BIGS.

## Schedule Your JUNE Line-up

Braves vs Marlins | JUNE 4th, 5th, 6th

**4**  
MON 7:05 PM  
**MasterCard Grand Slam**  
Ticket Pack: 4 Tickets, 4 Hot Dogs,  
4 Cokes, Parking Passes and Program  
starting at \$59

**5**  
TUE 2:35 PM, 7:35 PM  
**Double Header:** First game is at 2:35pm,  
second game is at 7:35pm  
**Kids Day Special:** \$3 tickets for kids 14  
and under for the 2:35pm game.  
Activities for kids all day around the field

**6**  
WED 1:05 PM  
**McDonald's® Outfield Advantage**  
Buy One Get One FREE Tickets



Braves vs Cubs | JUNE 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

**7**  
THU 7:35 PM  
**Jeff Francoeur T-Shirt Night**  
Presented by Delta to the first  
15,000 fans

**8**  
FRI 7:35 PM  
**Friday Night Fireworks**  
Presented by Publix

**9**  
SAT 7:05 PM  
**Parrot Head Night**  
Pre-game concert with  
Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band  
Food and Drink specials

**10**  
SUN 8:05 PM  
**Army Day: Ceremonial flyover**  
**All-Star Sunday**  
Alumni Appearances  
Kids run the bases after the game

Braves vs Red Sox | JUNE 18th, 19th, 20th

**18**  
MON 7:05 PM  
**Asian Heritage Night**  
Cultural performances in the plaza  
before the game and food specials

**19**  
TUE 7:35 PM  
**Rally Towel Night**  
Presented by Holiday Inn to the  
first 30,000 fans

**20**  
WED 7:35 PM  
**McDonald's® Outfield Advantage**  
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Braves vs Tigers | JUNE 22nd, 23rd, 24th

**22**  
FRI 7:35 PM  
**Friday Night Fireworks**  
Presented by Publix

**23**  
SAT 3:55 PM  
**Braves Hat Night:** Presented by  
NAPA to the first 30,000 fans  
**Motown Night**  
Motown music in the plaza

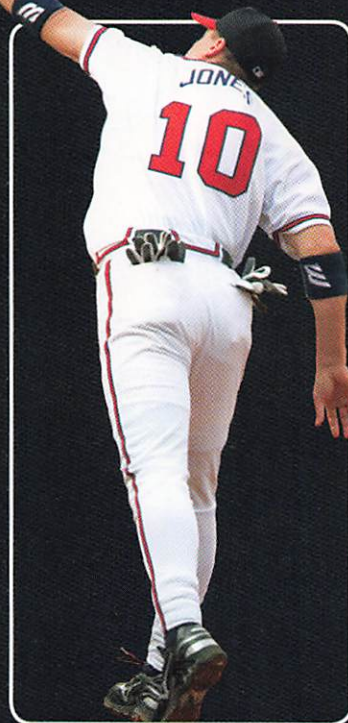
**24**  
SUN 1:05 PM  
**All-Star Sunday**  
Alumni Appearances  
Kids run the bases after the game

Braves vs Nationals | JUNE 25th, 26th, 27th

**25**  
MON 7:05 PM  
**Andrew Jones**  
**Signature Bat Night**  
Presented by Home Depot to  
the first 15,000 fans

**26**  
TUE 7:35 PM  
**Braves Rally Poster**  
Presented by Chick-fil-A to the first  
8,000 fans

**27**  
WED 7:35 PM  
**McDonald's® Outfield Advantage**  
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# BATTING ORDER

JUNE 2007

## POWER HITTERS

6-9

### HOME PLATE

A Visit to the Vinings Townhouse of John and Karen Schuerholz By Patty Rasmussen

14-15

### Q&A

An Interview With Aussie Sidewinder Peter Moylan By Patty Rasmussen

22-24

### HOW CHIPPER GOT HIS GROOVE BACK

Off-Season Routine of Rest and Fast Food Leads to Early Season Surge By Jay Busbee

26-28

### FRANCHISE ICON

New Contract Affords Smoltz the Opportunity To Carve Even More Unique Legacy By Jon Cooper

29-31

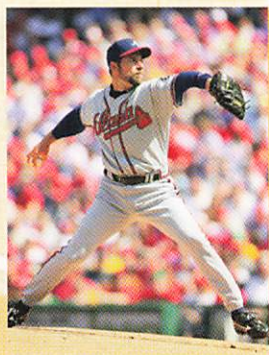
### HITTING MACHINE

Examining the Factors and Tendencies That Make This Lineup Click By Brian Knapp

40-41

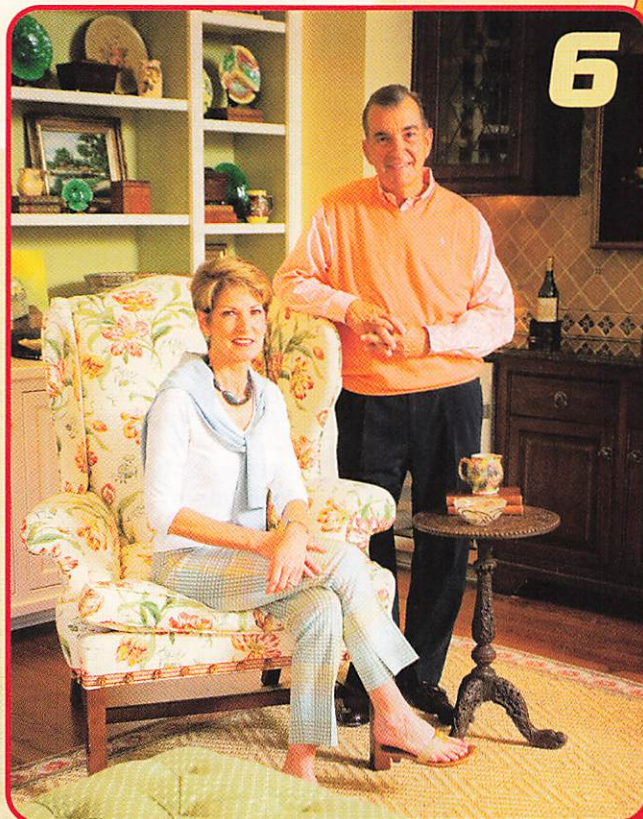
### GOOD VIBRATIONS

Hansen Using Power of Positive Coaching To Fuel Richmond Surge, Prep Pitchers for Atlanta By Chris Gigley



#### COVER CREDITS

JOHN SMOLTZ  
by Rich Pilling  
Peter Moylan by  
Allison Sherriffs  
Chipper Jones by  
Edward M. Pio Roda  
Design by Clark Odom





# BATTING ORDER

JUNE 2007

## SINGLES HITTERS

- 12-13 SCOREBOARD
- 18-19 BUNTS & BASEHITS
- 20-21 OFF THE FIELD
- 32-33 THE BIG SHOT POSTER  
STREAK HITTER!
- 37 BEHIND THE NUMBERS By Steve Fall
- 52-55 HEROES & HISTORY
- 52-53 **Marquis Grissom** Says He "Hits a Home Run  
Every Day" in Spreading Lessons of Baseball  
By Brian Knapp
- 54-55 Diminutive **Fred Haney** Stood Much Taller  
After Dethroning the Yankees in 1957  
By Bob Buege
- 56 ALUMNI NOTES
- BIRTHDAYS
- 58-59 BEYOND BASEBALL By Patty Rasmussen
- 60-61 TALKIN' CHOP
- 62 XTRA INNINGS

## PITCHERS

- 11 PAINTING THE CORNERS By Jay Busbee
- 17 CARAY CORNER  
**Chip!**
- 19 JOHN SCHUERHOLZ
- 21 BOBBY COX
- 24 BATTER UP! By **WILLIE HARRIS**
- 31 AROUND BASEBALL By Ken Rosenthal
- 57 GARY CARUSO
- 61 JOHNNY SAJEM'S Cartoon

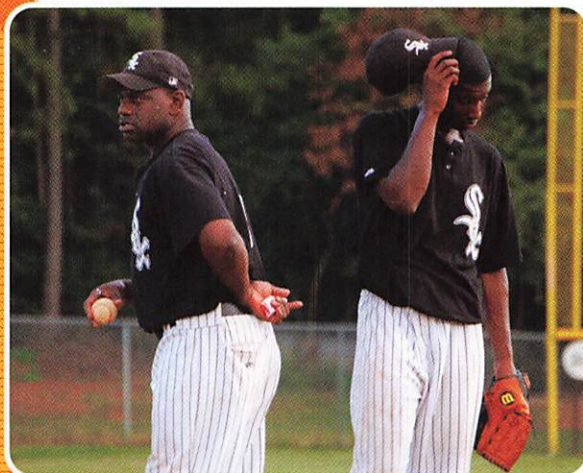
## PINCH- HITTERS

- 17 KNOW YOUR BRAVES **CRAIG WILSON**
- 46-47 2007 SCHEDULE CALENDAR,  
TV LISTINGS
- 47 PROMO GAMES - Free Stuff!
- 48-49 TURNER FIELD, TICKET INFO
- 50 GAME BY GAME
- 51 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
- 55 HOW I MADE IT TO THE MAJORS  
By Steve Fall
- 62 FAN CLUBS GUIDE

## ON DECK

- 42-44 FARM SYSTEM ROUNDUP By Bill Ballew
- 43 DOWN ON THE FARM By **Matt Esquivel**
- 44 TOP PROSPECTS BY POSITION
- 45 FARM CLUB STATISTICS

52



VOLUME 3, NUMBER 6

CHOPTALK USPS Periodicals Publication 022-732; ISSN 1555-1547 is published monthly for \$36.50 per year (\$54.95 Canada and Mexico; \$74.95 other international; payment in U.S. dollars only) by Wonderdog Publishing, Inc. Copyright 2007 with all rights reserved. Reproduction or use, without permission, of any content, in whole or part - in any manner - is prohibited. Office of publication is located at 3635 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Suite 750, Duluth, Ga. 30096. Visit Braves.com or ChopTalkonline.com. E-mail Letters@ChopTalkonline.com. This is the Official Monthly Magazine of the Atlanta Braves. Single copy price is \$4.95. Periodical postage paid at Duluth, Ga., and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes and returns to: ChopTalk, P.O. Box 922847, Norcross, Ga. 30010-2847.



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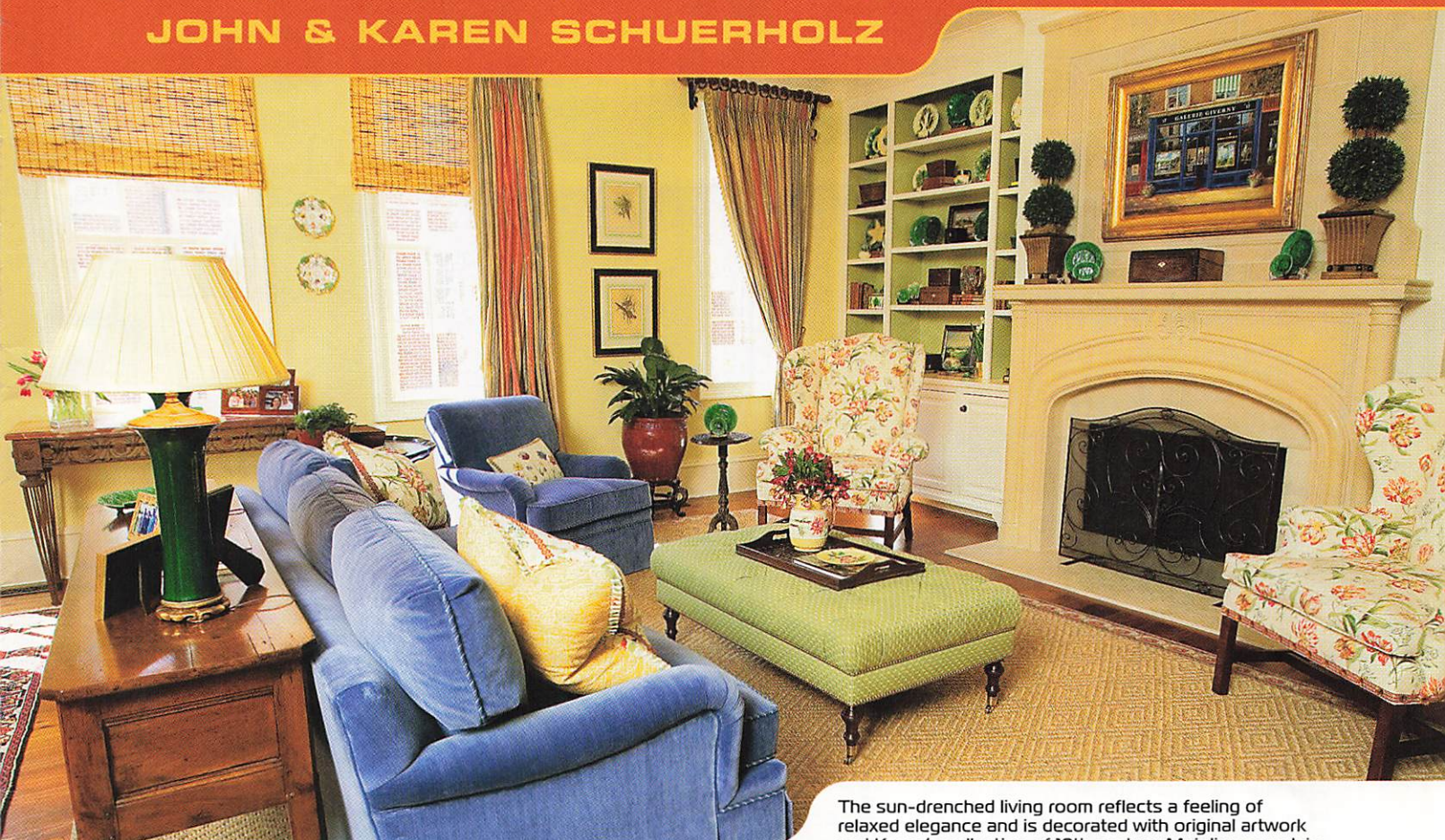




John and Karen Schuerholz live in a four-story townhouse located in Vinings, a quaint community that's within easy commuting distance of Turner Field.



## JOHN &amp; KAREN SCHUERHOLZ



The sun-drenched living room reflects a feeling of relaxed elegance and is decorated with original artwork and Karen's collection of 19th century Majolica porcelain.

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN



Like many couples whose children left the "nest," John Schuerholz and his wife, Karen, felt it was time to leave the home where they raised their family to find a place better suited for two. And in 2004, they found just what they were looking for in an enclave of stately brick townhouses located in the Vinings area of northwest Atlanta.

The Schuerholzes, married in 1978, lived in Kansas City, where John was general manager of the Royals, until he left to accept a similar position with the Braves in the fall of 1990. The family moved into a large home in northwest Atlanta when they arrived. John and Karen's daughter, Gina, remained in Kansas City to finish high school, but their new home was close to schools for their son, Jonathan, now 26 and a Braves farmhand at Triple-A Richmond, and also close to Schuerholz's office - then Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. But once the children moved out, it was time for a move.

"We had been looking for several years to downsize," said Karen, who has a keen eye for color and design. "I had seen [this neighborhood] as it was being built. A friend invited me to see a finished home, and I liked it."

Because the homes weren't completely finished, the Schuerholzes were able to make a few design changes that better suited them. They hired their own cabinetmaker to build and install the many built-in cabinets and bookcases throughout the house. The finished product is a traditional, four-floor townhouse that puts

A bat signifying the year the Kansas City Royals began play in the American League and Schuerholz's college baseball jersey are among many baseball items that decorate the family room.

every square foot to good use.

The ground floor, directly off the two-car garage, has a guest room and full bath, a private brick patio with a small garden area, and a comfortable family room completely given over to baseball memorabilia. In fact, every surface of the room, tabletops, built-in bookshelves, walls, and floor contain some type of memento from Schuerholz's remarkable career.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE







On the second shelf from the top, on both sides of the television, are Schuerholz's prized bookends - replica World Championship trophies from 1985 (Kansas City) and 1995.

PHOTOS/JASON SPRUILL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

One wall is dominated by John's framed baseball jersey from Towson (Md.) University, where he played both baseball and soccer. The jersey is surrounded by a framed set of signed photos of Tom Glavine, Greg Maddux and John Smoltz, a signed and framed print from the inaugural Braves Hall of Fame class which included Warren Spahn, Eddie Mathews, Hank Aaron and Phil Niekro, and large frames holding sets of tickets from the 1991 and 1995 World Series. A bat on a wall mount is from the 1969 Kansas City Royals, the team Schuerholz was with from 1968 until 1990.

On either side of the television, built-in bookcases hold books, signed baseballs, plaques, and framed photos. There are pictures of Schuerholz in the White House meeting then-president Ronald Reagan, alongside actor Tom Selleck, on the field with Stan Kasten, former Braves president now with the Nationals, and former Secretary of State Colin Powell, a photo with Chipper Jones and another with Mickey Mantle.

But the most unique items are Schuerholz's "matching" World Series replica trophies, now serving as bookends! One trophy commemorates the Royals' 1985 World Series championship, when he served as general manager. The other honors the Braves' 1995 World Series championship.

At the time of the Braves' 1995 World Series win, Schuerholz was the first executive to serve as GM for World Champions in both the National and American Leagues.

The most sentimental feature in the memorabilia room is a pen and ink drawing depicting Fleming Stadium in Wilson, N.C., where Schuerholz's father (John) played his first professional baseball game in 1939 for the Wilson Tobs. An old stadium chair from Fleming Stadium sits in the corner.

"In the summer of 2001, Jonathan was playing for the Florence (S.C.) Red Wolves in the Coastal Carolina League, a collegiate summer league," Schuerholz said. "Interestingly enough, their schedule had them playing in Wilson, N.C., at Fleming Stadium, the park my dad played in as a professional in 1939.

"My two brothers, Jerry and Larry, drove down from Baltimore, and I met up with everyone there for the game and threw out the first pitch. It was a thrilling and quite nostalgic day for us all as we walked

the playing field and visited the cramped clubhouse with its original 1939 dimensions. Jonathan even arranged to change his uniform number for that game to wear the number my dad wore."

On the wall of the ground floor hallway hangs the framed uni-



World Series tickets, a bat collection, and assorted photos of Schuerholz with various well-known people from baseball, politics and entertainment make the family room a testament to John's distinguished career.



form John wore in the Torch Relay for the 1996 Olympics held in Atlanta. The actual torch accompanies it.

The main living floor is technically the second floor of the house. A large, sun-drenched formal living room with wet bar is on the front side of the house. The walls are a neutral buff color offset by

with blue and red accents in the furnishings and artwork. The full gourmet kitchen has grey granite counters and an eating/serving bar with several brightly upholstered stools.

"Karen loves to cook," said Schuerholz, "and she cooks very well."

The third floor of the house features the couple's private living space, a spacious master bedroom and bathroom and a shared office.

Beautifully decorated in light green and white, the master bedroom is awash with sunlight. Green and white plaid upholstered chairs contrast with green and white floral drapes and ottoman.

The Schuerholzes opted to turn the second bedroom, with its adjoining bathroom, into shared office space. Built-in desks and cabinets, each with their own computer, are on either side of the room. Karen will spend a good deal of time on her office computer over the next few months as she helps Gina, an elementary school teacher who lives and works nearby, plan her November wedding.

One last flight of stairs leads to the top floor of the townhouse and a beautiful guest room and bathroom.

"It was Karen's idea to go up into the eaves of the house and turn this into a guest room," said Schuerholz. "She decorated it herself, and it looks like a room in the Ritz-Carlton."

Asked whether they miss anything from their previous lifestyle, Karen said it took a while to get used to the more



This dining room and sitting area is open into the kitchen and provides the favorite spot for John and Karen to visit with friends and family.

the window's white trim and crown molding and enhanced by beautiful hardwood floors. Natural rolled shades covering the windows and accented by colorful drapes create a dressed down effect.

The décor is complemented by Karen's collection of 19th century Majolica porcelain, some of it found on antiquing trips with Donna Corrales, wife of former Braves bench coach Pat Corrales. Though many of the furnishings are antique, the light and color of the room creates the overall effect of relaxed elegance.

One of the couple's biggest concerns in downsizing was a potential lack of wall space to display their collection of original artwork.

"Fortunately this is an interior unit, so there were more walls," said Karen.

Paintings of a variety of styles and sizes, including a street scene over the living room mantle and a still life over the wet bar, are hung throughout the house.

Art is a favorite topic of conversation and interest for the Schuerholzes. John studied art and art history in school. They are enthusiastic art patrons and enjoy browsing in local Atlanta galleries as well as those in Naples, Fla., where they have a condo.

As in most homes, the kitchen is a favorite hangout for family and friends. Located at the back of the house, the room is actually a kitchen, dining, and sitting room combination.

"This is our favorite spot," said John, getting comfortable in his blue easy chair, which faces a large black lacquered entertainment center.

A table sits between their matching blue chairs, and there's usually a stack of reading material nearby. The room is painted yellow



Sunlight and Karen's touch give the light green and white master suite a bright feeling.

"urban" setting of the townhouse.

"Where we lived was completely private," she said. "We didn't see our neighbors because we had trees and space between us. It was a comforting feeling to drive into solace. In that way, this is completely different."

But Karen is quick to add that they are enjoying the differences in townhouse living. "We can literally walk across the street to shop or go to dinner," she said. "Our drives to the ballpark take about 15 to 20 minutes, depending on the traffic."



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# PAINTING THE CORNERS

BY JAY BUSBEE



## "BIG SWITCH" CAN BE SCARY BUT WORTHWHILE

A FEW MONTHS BACK, I tried my hand at photography for one of these columns. Upon seeing the results, which made driver's license photos look artistic, ChopTalk editor Gary Caruso recommended I stick to words and stay away from pictures.

It was a position change that didn't work. Fortunately for me, I don't work live in front of an audience - unlike the Braves. (Not a whole lot of demand to watch journalists work in real time.)

The idea of learning a new job live in front of millions of viewers is a daunting proposition, and it takes a pretty strong stomach to succeed under that kind of scrutiny.

Which makes the transformation of Kelly Johnson so impressive. In just one month, KJ has grown from a tentative, jittery second baseman/leadoff hitter into a confident table-setter who's starting to attract All-Star notice.

"I had some serious butterflies the first few games of the season," Johnson said. "But after that Philadelphia series (to open the season, when he went 1-for-14), it's all come together."

Johnson's the latest in a long line of redefined Braves who've flourished in new roles.

The most famous example is Dale Murphy. He arrived in the majors as a promising catcher. Unfortunately, catching is only part of the job description. There's also a lot of throwing involved, and Murph had trouble with that side of the equation. After a short stint at first base, he moved to the outfield, and all he did there was win two MVPs.

"It's a real risk, doing something different from what you grew up doing," Murphy said. "You don't know how well you're going to take to the new role. But when your career is at stake, you're willing to take those chances."

It's a high-risk gamble. There's not a lot of patience for a player who doesn't master his new position relatively quickly. Still, when the Braves like a guy, they figure a way to work him in. Consider some of the other familiar names who have jumped around the diamond:

\* David Justice played half the 1990 season at first, until Murphy's trade to Philadelphia



ALLISON SHIRREFFS

opened a spot in the outfield. From then on, the closest Justice got to the infield was running through it en route to right.

\* Ron Gant broke in as a second baseman, but didn't last particularly long there. He committed 26 errors in 122 games in 1988. The next year, the Braves shifted him to third, where he had even more trouble, with 16 errors in just 53 games. The team then sent Gant to the outfield, where he

would serve as one of the cornerstones of that 1991 team you might have heard a thing or two about.

\* Ryan Klesko was a classic case of Bobby Cox keeping a big stick in the lineup wherever he could fit. Klesko pinballed between first base and the outfield in every single one of his six full seasons in Atlanta.

\* Chipper Jones famously switched to left field for the 2002 and 2003 seasons after the Braves signed Vinny Castilla to play third. Most stars who switch positions - Cal Ripken from short to third, Mike Piazza from catcher to first - do so to buy a few more years of playing time.

Kelly Johnson is the latest in a group of Braves who have proved over the years that a position change can be a blessing to a career.

Chipper may be the only modern-era player of his stature who changed positions primarily for the good of the team. He didn't win any Gold Gloves, but he still performed right at the league average, and hit better than .300 in both seasons.

Which brings us to 2007. Coming into this year, Johnson's career wasn't necessarily on the line, but his Atlanta tenure certainly was at risk. With a logjam of outfielders ahead of him, he had no choice but to take the second-base plunge, as detailed in last month's ChopTalk.

So, with second base now in good hands, astute Braves fans are starting to notice that Cox faces another potential positional juggling act behind the plate. Back around 2004, minor-league scouts began touting then-teenaged Jarrod Saltalamacchia as the Braves' catcher of the next decade. But since then, Brian McCann has claimed the job and a long-term contract. Thus the much-heralded Salty has become a man without a predestined position.

As a result, the position-switch talk is starting to swirl around Saltalamacchia.

"I'm hearing that a lot," he said soon after his May callup. "But nobody [from the

**"IT'S A REAL RISK, DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU GREW UP DOING... BUT WHEN YOUR CAREER IS AT STAKE, YOU'RE WILLING TO TAKE THOSE CHANCES."**

- DALE MURPHY

Braves] has told me anything about it. So I'm just focused on catching."

Braves message boards nonetheless hum with speculation on Saltalamacchia's future. Move him to first? Station him in left? Or punt, and deal him for more starting pitching? Salty does what he can to screen out the buzz, shrugging that "whatever the team wants me to do, I'll do it."

Chances are, they won't have him shooting t-shirts out of cannons. Short of that, though, it's impossible to say where Salty will end up. But if he does end up changing positions, he'll have plenty of experienced elders to seek out for advice.



## EDDIE'S DUTIES



ALLISON SHIFFRITS

**FANS WATCHING** Braves games on television often see bullpen coach and former Braves catcher Eddie Perez looking very official in the bullpen, carrying a clipboard and making notations from time to time.

So, what's Perez doing that's so important? Writing memos to pitchers? Doodling? Or maybe working on his memoirs?

Answer: None of the above.

The clipboard holds a copy of the lineup card - an official Major League Baseball document.

Prior to each game, two large lineup cards are filled out. Two smaller versions of the lineup are given to the umpires and the opposing team. One large lineup card is hung in the Braves' dugout, and the other is given to the bullpen coach.

Perez keeps the lineup card on his clipboard where he tracks who is in the game for both teams. Whenever a substitution is made, Perez marks through the previous name and lists the name of the new player or pitcher. This enables him to keep track of who is hitting where in the lineup and to give a bullpen pitcher up-to-date information about who he will face when he enters the game.

Though it's generally pretty simple to keep track of the incoming and outgoing players, there have been a couple of mixups.

"Bobby made a double-switch once when I was warming up a pitcher," said Perez. "I looked up and said, 'Hey, who's that in there?' Usually [bench coach] Chino Cadahia will call to tell me what the changes are."

After the game, the lineup cards are signed by Cox and certified with a seal for MLB.

- PATTY RASMUSSEN



## CARD ART

IF "ROOKIE CARDS" are your thing, make sure you have this month's featured card in your collection. Kelly Johnson is giving every indication that he'll be a factor in the Braves' lineup for quite a while, and his official rookie card can be found for as little as \$1.27 online at bbonly.com.

This card is a 2001 Bowman Draft Picks (#BDP3). It shows Johnson in his batting stance that has been so

productive at the top of the batting order, and it even includes a replica autograph.

Our online search found prices as high as \$4 for this card and as low as 99 cents on an eBay auction that was still in progress.

Check with your local card dealers (consult the Yellow Pages) or do an internet search to shop for this and other Braves cards for your collection.





## OTHER VOICES

NATE SILVER

OF BASEBALLPROSPECTUS.COM  
(Ranking the game's top 50 players)

### NO. 9. BRIAN MCCANN

This is one special kid... McCann is going to be a consistent .300 BA, 25 HR guy year after year. Since 1950 there are just eight catchers who have had more than one season in which they posted a .300-plus batting average and 25-plus home runs. Seven of those - Johnny Bench, Yogi Berra, Roy Campanella, Gary Carter, Carlton Fisk, Ivan Rodriguez and Mike Piazza - are inner-circle Hall of Famers. The other is Joe Torre, who should get his plaque in Cooperstown soon enough.



### NO. 44. ANDRUW JONES

He's at the age where he's going to need to start making adjustments - and so far, so good. Andruw no longer has the wheels that he once did in center field, but he makes up for it by getting tremendous reads as the ball leaves the bat. He bulk prevents him from legging out as many base hits, but he makes up for it by swinging for the fences more often. He may have lost a tick of bat speed, but he makes up for it by working the count more carefully... It's exactly these sorts of adjustments that should lock him in as a first-ballot Hall of Famer.

TOM VERDUCCI SI.COM

(10 Best players under age 25)

**7. BRIAN MCCANN** ripped 24 homers and hit .333 in only 130 games last year - the youngest player ever to reach those numbers in so few games and only the second such catcher, joining Mike Piazza. A left-handed-hitting Piazza? Now that's valuable.

HOW DO  
THEY DO  
THAT?

## MAKE A BASEBALL CARD

**FOR YOUNG** Braves fans, few things match the thrill of discovering a Chipper Jones or Jeff Francoeur in a pack of baseball cards. The process for getting those cards into their hands takes as long as 30 weeks and involves hundreds of people, according to Topps spokesperson Clay Luraschi.

Usually during spring training, Topps photographs players and secures a signed contract from every major and minor leaguer with a baseball card.

They later pull together all the photos in their New York City location. As this takes place, their art department creates the card's design. They next drop the photos into the design. They also have an entire team composing the backs of the cards, which features the player bios and statistics.

"Once the photo is fused with the design, we'll see a proof (above) of the front and the back," said Luraschi. "We make sure all the spelling and stats are correct. Once it's proofed, it goes to what we call 'film'. And then the film is sent to the printer."

After getting printed, the cards are cut, shuffled, and randomly put into packs. They then go into boxes for shipment to stores, hobby shops, and retailers throughout the country.

Topps first began making baseball cards in 1951. For over 30 years, they produced just one series. This has expanded to include autograph cards, milestone cards, and many other types. In one respect, Luraschi says nothing has changed.

"When you put a pack of cards in a kid's hands, they're going to react just the way their parents did in the 1960s and '70s. It's a great parent-child activity. It goes hand-in-hand with a great sport."

- STEVE FALL



**IF YOU'VE** been waiting for an Atlanta version of the Wickman's Warriors t-shirts first featured in ChopTalk last September, they're now available. Visit [wickman-swarriors.com](http://wickman-swarriors.com) for more

information, or simply send a check for \$28 (payable to Atlanta Braves Foundation - put "Wickman's Warriors" on the memo line) to: Wickman's Warriors, P.O. Box 40224, Bay Village, Ohio 44140. Be sure to include your t-shirt size.

**LOCAL  
28**

All proceeds benefit the charitable Braves Foundation. Expenses of the club, including the t-shirts, are absorbed by Wickman, club president Joseph Ladd, and other supporters.

Wickman's Warriors is the "official baseball club" of the Braves' bullpen specialist. The new navy blue t-shirts include a Local 28 logo - as opposed to the Local 26 shirts from his Cleveland days - and the club logo that bears the words: "In Bob We Trust."





ALLISON SHIPLETS

INTERVIEW BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

**CHOPTALK** Who got you into baseball?

**PETER MOYLAN** I guess it was my dad. He came to the U.S. for work and watched the Astros at the Astrodome and fell in love with the game. When he returned [to Australia], he joined a league and played and got me into t-ball. I loved it. I hate cricket! I know that's harsh, but it's not the most exciting sport to watch.

**CT** Aren't there people who say that about baseball?

**MOYLAN** That's true, but there are cricket matches that go on for five days and sometimes you don't even get a decision. After five days, you can get a draw! What do you do then? Say, "Thanks for coming. Want to get a beer?" What can I say? I just fell in love with this sport. We'd get the World Series [on TV] each year, and even as a young guy, I loved watching it. I didn't have a favorite team, but I liked watching Mark McGwire with the A's and Greg Maddux - he was the guy I liked watching pitch. I had a Frank Thomas Reebok poster and a Ken Griffey Jr. poster. Sometimes I think I was born to be an American! I started playing t-ball when I was young. I absolutely loved it. The natural progression after t-ball was to start playing baseball. I was about 11 years old. I played all through juniors [under-13] and started playing senior base-

At press time, Moylan's 2.25 ERA was third on the Braves, trailing only Mike Gonzalez and Tim Hudson.

ball when I was 15, which is when I started getting pretty good. This was all played outside of school. I went to a private school, and baseball wasn't considered one of their sports. I was asked to play Aussie rules football at school, as well as my sport. It was pretty hectic, and by my senior year, I had to choose between the two.

**CT** Is baseball played during the spring? When is your school year?

**MOYLAN** Baseball is played in the summer. Our school year is from February to November.

**CT** What happened once you finished senior leagues?

**MOYLAN** I started representing my state. At that time, I was in Western Australia, and I signed out of the under-18 National Championships with the Minnesota Twins in 1996. I spent two years there. I never left rookie ball. I went back to Australia, got married, had a little girl. My life was normal, life was good. I was still playing club baseball once a weekend. I was just working, playing on the weekends, but still playing for my state. One day I was

high school directly to the big leagues in a month.

**CT** How did you get from the WBC to the Braves?

**MOYLAN** There were loads of scouts at the WBC from a number of teams. I came to Florida and met with Dayton Moore [former Braves director of player personnel], and I liked the organization and liked what they'd done the year before with all the rookies. I thought, "If I'm going to do this, then let's do it." Perhaps if I'd waited longer, I could have gotten a better deal from another team, but I was at the stage where I needed to make a decision that night because I needed to leave for Australia the next day. And I honestly believed that the Braves were offering me the best chance yet.

**CT** Where did the sidearm delivery come from? Is that something you saw someone else do?

**MOYLAN** I threw over the top when I first signed in 1996, and then I had two surgeries on my back that forced me to change the way I threw. I wasn't pitching. I had two and a half years off all together. But I was hitting at that time, so I thought if I can hit with this side-to-side motion without it hurting, maybe I could pitch with that

**I JUST FELL IN LOVE WITH THIS SPORT...  
SOMETIMES I THINK I WAS BORN TO BE AN AMERICAN!**

throwing in a practice game when some Australian scouts were there. They saw me pitch and had a radar gun on me. After the game they said, "Did you know you were throwing 94 miles an hour?" I had no idea I was throwing that hard - there are no radar guns at club level baseball! It was an absolute shock. I was invited to try out for the national team in order to play in the World Baseball Classic [2006].

**CT** How would you compare going from club level to National Team in the World Baseball Classic in U.S. major league terms?

**MOYLAN** It would be like going from

motion. I'd seen a lot of Dennis Eckersley pitching and a lot of the Asian guys pitch sidearm, so I tried it. It felt good, I felt comfortable. I tried throwing that way from the mound, got a few innings and things got rolling.

**CT** What's been the highlight of your Braves experience thus far?

**MOYLAN** My first callup, absolutely. I'd been in Richmond four days, and I walked into the clubhouse. I got my food as I usually do, went to sit down to eat, and Brian Snitker called me over. He said, "Pete, come over here." I'd never seen





ATLANTA BRAVES

Moylan, 28, played in the Minnesota farm system in 1996-97, but didn't play baseball in the U.S. again until 2006 when the Braves signed him as a minor league free agent.

er, who lives in North Carolina, will come to a few games at the beginning of May. My wife is pregnant (due in July/August), so she won't be coming over at all. Our daughter, Montana, is a well-traveled, 6-year-old. She's been twice to the States.

**CT** What's it like where you live?

**MOYLAN** I grew up near Perth in southwest Australia, but now I live in Vermont, a suburb of Melbourne, on the east coast of Australia. It's really much like it is here. It was so hot this off-season, and my daughter was on school holidays, that we spent most days at the movies, swimming in the pool, whatever to keep cool.

**CT** What were you like when you were a kid? You seem like you might have a mischievous side to you.

**MOYLAN** Absolutely! To put it mildly, I was a difficult child. I was hyperactive, always into something all the time. My school report card said, "Wants to be the class clown... has the potential to do fantastic things but continues to disrupt the class and make jokes..."

**CT** Did playing sports help you focus your energy?

**MOYLAN** I think my wife and my little

anyone get called up. I didn't know how people got called up, and so I walked over to him. He said, "They're going to need you in Atlanta tomorrow." I couldn't speak. I couldn't eat. It blew me away. I jumped straight on the phone to talk to my wife [Tracey]. I told her, "You're not going to believe this. I'm going to Atlanta." It was after the game, like 10:30 at night here, so it was 12:30 in the afternoon over there. We were both screaming, and there were a few tears shed. I left a good, well-paying job (pharmaceutical sales representative), and I came over here for 10 days for the WBC and stayed for seven and a half months! It has been a big sacrifice to come over here to have



**I HAD NO IDEA I WAS THROWING THAT HARD (94 MPH) - THERE ARE NO RADAR GUNS AT CLUB LEVEL BASEBALL! IT WAS AN ABSOLUTE SHOCK.**



a real shot at making it. We're pretty happy that we did it.

**CT** Your dad made it over here to see you pitch, right?

**MOYLAN** Yeah, he bought a ticket for New York hoping I'd be with the team, but if I hadn't been there, he would have driven down to Richmond. Luckily I was with the team and he got to see me pitch. My broth-

girl helped me focus my energy, because up until I met Tracey, I was still a little wild.

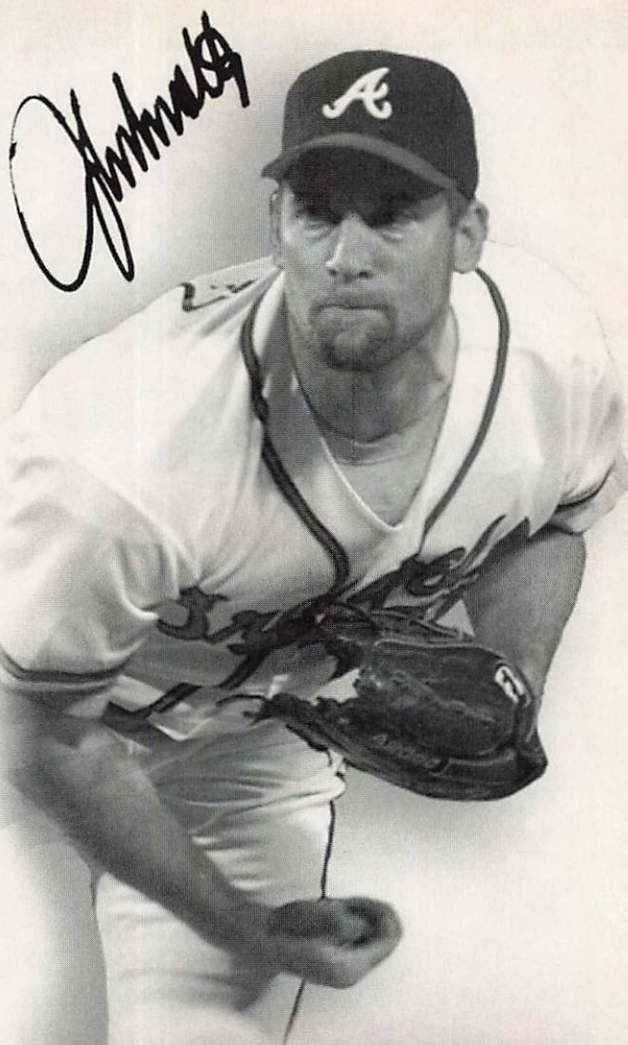
**CT** How did you meet Tracey?

**MOYLAN** My mum was coaching her softball team in Sydney and I went down there to watch. I saw her and thought, "Wow," and then when I moved back to Australia after being released, I stayed in the Sydney area. We hit it off and got married.



# Strike Out Hunger!

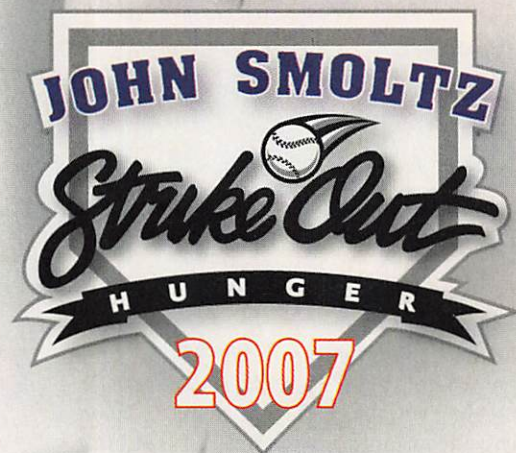
Atlanta Braves pitcher John Smoltz knows it's important to build a better community. That's why John is helping the Atlanta Community Food Bank strike out hunger. We need your help too! You can help Georgians in need by joining John's Strike Out Hunger team. John is donating \$100 to the Food Bank for every strikeout this season. And you can receive a sports item autographed by John for every pledge YOU make. As a special thank you for your donation and support, each paid pledge will receive a gift based on the pledge levels shown below. All gifts are tax deductible less the retail value of the item(s) received. All gifts will be autographed by John Smoltz.



## Yes!

I will pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

| <u>Signed Gear</u>            |               | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Limited Edition Photograph    | \$ 25 _____   | \$ _____     |
| Baseball Cap                  | \$ 75 _____   | \$ _____     |
| Baseball                      | \$ 150 _____  | \$ _____     |
| Official Bat                  | \$ 400 _____  | \$ _____     |
| Official Glove                | \$ 750 _____  | \$ _____     |
| Official Smoltz Braves Jersey | \$ 1250 _____ | \$ _____     |
| All items are                 | \$ 2500 _____ | \$ _____     |



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The Strike Out Hunger season begins with the Braves opening home game and ends with the final regular season home game.

All items based on availability and will be sent to you at the close of the Braves season and upon receipt of payment.

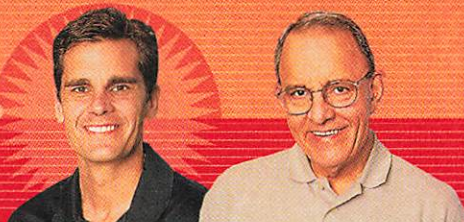
For more information call 404-892-FEED ext. 1246. Or visit [ACFB.org](http://ACFB.org)

Pledge forms should be mailed to Atlanta Community Food Bank, 732 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30318-6628

Please make checks payable to Atlanta Community Food Bank.

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COMMUNITY  
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## THE FUN FOR THIS TEAM HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN

**EVERY YEAR** for the last decade or so, a writing tradition continues in one of the baseball cities of our fair land. An esteemed baseball writer hunches over his laptop and types his annual "Welcome to the End of Baseball Season" column in Kansas City. In May.

Not good.

Luckily, Braves fans haven't had to suffer that way for a long time. Even last year's club, warts and all, was still mathematically alive until mid-September. With October hopes very much alive this year, here are three reasons why optimism abounds so far, followed by a few yellow blinking lights of caution as we move into June.

### REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

**1.** Pitching, pitching and more pitching. Start with the bullpen. For the first time in recent memory, there is tremendous talent, and most of all, depth amongst the 'pensmen. Bob Wickman missed two weeks, and you hardly noticed. Rafael Soriano and Mike Gonzalez were superb, and, best of all, perfect in their closer auditions while Wickman battled a knot in his upper back.

Peter Moylan has lowered his arm angle and his ERA. Tyler Yates, the last man to make the staff this spring, has been very quietly effective in the sixth, seventh, and even the eighth inning.

**2.** A terrific top-three in the batting order. Everyone knows the difference Chipper Jones makes in the Braves' offense.

Whether he hits or not, he is a huge threat in the number three slot. He is hitting, by the way.

Edgar Renteria may be the most under-appreciated player on the club. He's scored 100 runs in each of the last two seasons, flirted with a .300 average, and has a 15-game hitting streak going - seemingly - every month. Defensively, he doesn't have the range he did as a 25-year-old, but he makes every play he should.

Lastly, Kelly Johnson. Who knew? Last season, Marcus Giles walked 62 times and scored 87 runs. Kelly is on pace to reach those numbers by August.

He works the count better than any other hitter on the team. After 100 at-bats this season, KJ worked a three-ball count in 34 of them. Amazing. Oh, yeah. The first-year second baseman has only two errors as of this writing. He should be on the All-Star team.

**3.** The most interesting aspect of the club is its youthful enthusiasm. It's no surprise that Jeff Francoeur and Brian McCann are taking on more prominent roles this year. Their play warrants that. But as we mentioned this spring, there is still a hunger, a drive with this club that may have been rekindled last year.

As of this writing, the Braves have come back to win 12 games already with seventh, eighth, and ninth-inning rallies.

They've hit late homers. They've stolen a

key base. The 'pen has shut teams down for two, three, sometimes four innings. They are finding ways to win games that last year they had no chance of winning.

Most of all, they know they can win. And so does the rest of the division.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Skip Caray and Chip Caray alternate months in this space, so watch for Skip in July. Chip will be back here in August.

### FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS

No team is perfect, however. Keep an eye on these issues the next couple of months.

**1.** The schedule is brutal in June and July. The Braves play only six games with teams in the NL East. With two Western trips and matchups with Minnesota, Cleveland, Boston, and Detroit from the AL looming, we'll have a much better idea of where the Braves are with respect to the top-tier teams in the other league.

**2.** The bench is a concern. A lefty power bat to use late is a very important piece to a championship puzzle.

**3.** Smoltz and Hudson, and the opponents get Nuthin'. With apologies to Spahn and Sain, etc. etc., the back end of the rotation has to settle in and help carry the load.

**4.** Andruw? He's driving in runs, making impossible catches look routine. We haven't seen AJ get blistering hot yet. And when he gets hot, an already balanced, potent, efficient offense is going to make a lot of teams pay when he comes striding to the plate.

The fun, as we enter the dog days of June, July and August, is only beginning.

# KYB

KNOW YOUR BRAVES

### 2006 STATISTICS

\* COMBINED PITTSBURGH/YANKEES

| AVG  | G   | AB  | R  | H  | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO  | SB |
|------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| .251 | 125 | 359 | 53 | 90 | 15 | 2  | 17 | 49  | 28 | 122 | 1  |

## CRAIG WILSON

#38

### BASICS

#### FULL NAME POSITION VITALS

CRAIG ALAN WILSON  
First Baseman/Outfielder  
Bats/Throws Right/Right  
Height 6-2  
Weight 225  
Age 30

#### BORN

November 30, 1976  
Fountain Valley, Calif.

#### CONTRACT ACQUIRED

Signed through 2007.  
Signed as a free agent,  
Jan. 18, 2007.

#### PERSONAL

Married (Jill); Son (Luke).

### CAREER

#### THREE PACK

Entered season with big league experience in the outfield (314 games), first base (262 games) and catcher (40 games).

#### IN A PINCH

Ranks second among active players with 12 career pinch-hit home runs, seven of which came in 2001 to tie major league season record.

#### POWER SURGE

Hit career-high 33 home runs at Triple-A Nashville (Pacific Coast League) in 2000, fourth among all minor leaguers and one shy of franchise record.

#### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

First big league hit was a pinch-hit homer in third at-bat on May 1, 2001, and homered the next game in his first big league start.

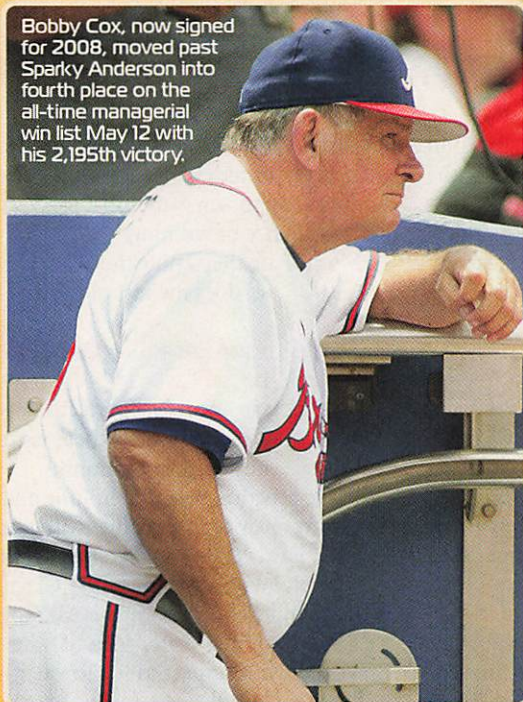
### PHOTO



ALISON SHARP/STARS



Bobby Cox, now signed for 2008, moved past Sparky Anderson into fourth place on the all-time managerial win list May 12 with his 2,195th victory.



ALLISON SHIFFRITS

## THE CONSTANTS

**THE TWO CONSTANTS ON THE PLAYING FIELD** since the 1991 "Worst to First" season are **Bobby Cox** and **John Smoltz**, and the Braves moved to sustain their contributions to the franchise tradition by signing them both to contract extensions in April.

On April 18, it was announced that Cox signed an extension through 2008. Then on April 26, the club announced that Smoltz signed an extension through 2008 with options for 2009 and 2010.

Cox is the winningest manager in franchise history and just became the fourth-winningest manager in baseball history and second (**Tony La Russa**) among active managers. He's in his 26th season as a big league manager and his 22nd as Braves manager (1978-81, and mid-1990-present). He and Hall of Fame manager **Joe McCarthy** are the only two managers in history with six 100-win seasons.

Smoltz, who could have become a free agent after this season, received a guaranteed contract for 2008. The option for 2009 is exercised if he pitches 200 or more innings in 2008. The club also has an option for 2010 in which his salary is determined by the number of innings he works in 2009.

Since Smoltz will be 43 at the end of the 2010 season, it's possible that the new contract means he'll spend his entire big league career as a Brave.

## MANEUVERING

The Braves traded **Ryan Langerhans** to Oakland April 29, and in the process, opened the door for one of the most pleasant surprises of the young season. To take the spot of Langerhans on the roster, **Willie Harris** was called up from Richmond. The Braves are to receive cash or a player to be named from Oakland for Langerhans, who was hitting just .068 in 20 games. After two games with the A's, Langerhans was traded to Washington for **Chris Snelling**.

The 28-year-old Harris, who can play all three outfield positions as well as second base and third base, was hitting .362 at Richmond and immediately made an impact with the Braves in left field.

A native of Cairo, Ga., Harris signed with the Braves in December as a minor league free agent. He had a .228 career average in 369 big league games, including 56 with the World Champion White Sox in 2005.

## MARK YOUR SCHEDULES

In order to make up the April 14 rainout against Florida, the Braves and Marlins will play a "split" doubleheader on Tuesday,

June 5, at 2:35 p.m. and 7:35 p.m. Additionally, the starting time for the June 10 game against the Cubs at Turner Field was changed to 8:05 p.m. due to ESPN picking it up for a national telecast. And the June 16 (at Cleveland) and June 23 (Detroit) games were picked up by the FOX network for national coverage, resulting in the game times being changed to 3:55 p.m.

The 2:35 game against Florida on June 5 will be a "Kids Day Special," featuring \$3 tickets for children 14 and under on select seats.

The second game (separate admission) of the split doubleheader will begin at its originally scheduled time of 7:35 p.m. Both games are to be shown on SportSouth.

Fans who have paid individual or group tickets for the April 14 game may exchange them for the early June 5 game or any other remaining game this season at the Turner Field ticket office. The April 14 postponement was only the 10th in Turner Field's 11-year history.

Fans that have tickets for the June 10 game can use their original ticket to gain entrance to Turner Field that evening. The ballpark gates will open at 5:30 p.m.

## ROSTER BIZ

**Bob Wickman**, who uncharacteristically blew two saves April 25 and 29, went on the disabled list April 30 with tendinitis in his upper/right back. **Chad Paronto** was activated from the DL to take Wickman's place on the roster.

Paronto went on the DL April 14 (groin), and **Macay McBride** was optioned to Richmond the same day. **Peter Moylan** was recalled from Richmond, and the Braves purchased the contract of lefty **Steve Colyer** from Richmond.

On May 2, **Brayan Pena** was placed on the disabled list due to a concussion he suffered the night before when he was hit in the head with **Greg Dobbs'** bat in its follow-through. Highly regarded rookie **Jarrod Saltalamacchia** was called up from Double-A Mississippi to replace Pena on the roster.

Also on May 2, **Mark Redman** was placed on the disabled list to have surgery for an ingrown toenail, and the Braves purchased the contract of **Kevin Barry** from Richmond.





**Anthony Lerew** was promoted from Richmond to start against San Diego May 8. To make room for him on the roster, Colyer was designated for assignment.

## AYBAR SUSPENDED

The Braves placed infielder **Willy Aybar** on indefinite suspension April 19 for failure to report to the ballpark. Aybar, originally suspended for three days, was on the 15-day disabled list with a sore right hand. Reports indicated he was dealing with a substance abuse issue. The Braves got Aybar from the Dodgers last July 28, along with **Danys Baez**, for **Wilson Betemit**.

## ONE, TWO, THREE!

**Chipper Jones** hit it well - but in the wrong place. The result was an unassisted triple play April 29. With **Edgar Renteria** at first and **Kelly Johnson** at second and both of them running on the pitch, Chipper hit a line drive at Colorado shortstop **Troy Tulowitzki**, who stepped on second to force Johnson and tagged Renteria coming from first. It was the first unassisted triple play in the majors since the Braves' **Rafael Furcal** did it Aug. 10, 2003, against the Cardinals.

## SHORT HOPS

**A** On April 30, **Andruw Jones** and **Chipper Jones** hit home runs in the same game for the third time this season and the 58th time in their careers. Andruw's was a walkoff home run, the sixth of his career.

**A** **Mike Hampton** was transferred to the 60-day disabled list April 16, and **Tanyon Sturtze** was put on the 60-day DL May 2.

**A** **Jeff Francoeur** had an RBI in six straight plate appearances April 23-24. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, he was the first player to do this since **Kevin Millar** did it with the 2003 Red Sox. In his last four plate appearances of this stretch, he had two-out RBIs, the first player to do so since **Brian Jordan** with the 1998 Cardinals.

**A** Bobby Cox was ejected May 6 for the 128th time in his career, leaving him three behind John McGraw for the all-time lead among managers.

## HARRIS' RELAXED MANNER MAKES A POSITIVE IMPACT

**BOBBY COX AND I** have, for the last 17 years, made it clear to one another that working together and being partners in this venture is comfortable and productive and ideal in terms of our ability to work toward the same goal. To have Bobby available for at least another year is very reassuring to me and to everyone in the organization.

I'm trying to convince him to be the next Walter Alston (Dodgers manager 1954-76) and sign a series of one-year contracts.

Signing John Smoltz to a contract extension is similar in substance to signing Bobby for another year. Bobby is the leader, the manager of the club, with great consistency and continuity. John represents the same continuity and leadership and consistency in performance and pride and winning spirit Braves players have displayed, decade after decade.

John had a real strong desire to continue his career - and hopefully end it - in a Braves uniform, and we had a similar desire for him to do that. We were able to work out a deal to do that, and we're delighted with that.

John's words and attitude, even more than the contract, seem to guarantee he will finish his remarkable career as a Brave. That would be a unique occurrence in this era - or any era - and would be reflective of two things - John's appreciation and admiration and comfort with this organization, and our organization's appreciation and admiration of John's consistent approach to his job and his production at that job.

We weren't surprised Willie Harris was playing so well at Triple A, because he had an outstanding spring training. He made a strong case to make the club. But Ryan Langerhans played well last year, and so did Pete Orr, who fills another slot Willie can play.

Bobby had comfort in going with those two guys. Even though he appreciated what Willie did in the spring, he decided to go with the guys who delivered in the past.

But with Willie knocking on the door and Ryan's struggles being what they were, as we talked to other clubs about their problems, it led to the A's and conversations about Ryan, and the trade was made. That opened a spot for Willie and gave him a chance to make an impact - which he's done in a positive way.

Willie didn't have a good season last year, which is why he was a minor league free agent. And I'm only repeating what he's already said - he decided to become a free spirit and enjoy baseball and play like he was a kid again when he had the most fun playing. He's willed himself to do that, and it's worked well for him and for us.

I can't say enough about the work Rafael Soriano and Mike Gonzalez have done, especially in light of Bob Wickman being on the disabled list. Tyler Yates has stepped up, too, and Peter Moylan. Now Chad Paronto is back.

This is a well-balanced team. The good, young players from last year have another season under their belts, and you can see their maturity and day-by-day impact on the team growing.

The overall confidence displayed by the entire team, once the bullpen was reconstructed, has been pretty remarkable. You could see that attitude back in December and January, after we made those deals, in how the players talked and acted. The team's ability to compete and to win went up immeasurably. That's grown as we've moved ahead and the bullpen has demonstrated what it can do.

Kelly Johnson has come in and made a sensational transition with the help of Glenn Hubbard, and I feel Scott Thorman will do the same thing in time.

“THE OVERALL CONFIDENCE DISPLAYED BY THE ENTIRE TEAM, ONCE THE BULLPEN WAS RECONSTRUCTED, HAS BEEN PRETTY REMARKABLE.”



## THE WAY TO PLAY

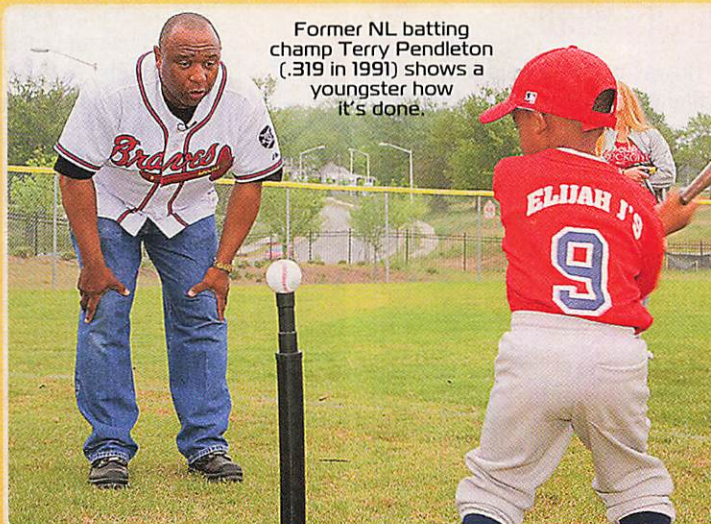
**TERRY PENDLETON**, along with **Willie Harris**, **Tyler Yates**, **Chino Cadahia**, **Roger McDowell** and **Brian Jordan**, conducted a baseball clinic for 100 youths from the Atlanta Braves Baseball Academy's Carver Youth Baseball League on May 5.

The clinic was in conjunction with opening day of the Atlanta Braves Baseball Academy's season. Participants in the YMCA's baseball league learned skills that included proper throwing mechanics, hitting techniques and base running skills.

A newly formed partnership between the Atlanta Braves Baseball Academy, Little League Baseball and Softball, and the Metro Atlanta YMCA, will provide even more opportunity and resources to youth participating in the league, including the chance to play in Little League tournaments and compete in the Little League World Series.

More than 350 youth from Carver YMCA, Centennial YMCA, East Lake YMCA, Andrew & Walter Young Family YMCA, Atlanta Parks and Recreation, and the Ben Hill Youth Association will have the opportunity to play at the Atlanta Braves Baseball Academy this season. Youth who are interested in playing in the league can call (404) 635-YMCA.

The Atlanta Braves Baseball Academy facilities include four fields, funded by **Chipper Jones**, **Jordan**, **Mike Hampton** and **John Smoltz**, bringing an eight-acre signature youth sports complex to the heart of the redeveloped Carver community near Turner Field.



Former NL batting champ Terry Pendleton (.319 in 1991) shows a youngster how it's done.

ATLANTA BRAVES

## FLY BALL

The Braves are honoring the 60th anniversary of the United States Air Force by sending an official Atlanta Braves baseball around the world with U.S. Airmen. Throughout the summer, the ball, specially designed with a U.S. Air Force 60th Anniversary logo, is visiting locations around the globe, including Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Africa, Germany, France, England, Alaska, Japan, Asia, Hawaii and South America.

The Air Force will deliver the baseball back to Atlanta on September 18 as the Braves celebrate Air Force Night at Turner Field. Fans can follow the baseball on its trip around the globe at [braves.com/airforceball](http://braves.com/airforceball).

## LUNCH TIME

The ninth year of Braves Power Lunches

was scheduled to begin May 25 at ESPN Zone in Buckhead. The remainder of the lunches are scheduled on the following Fridays: June 22, Aug. 3, Aug. 31 and Sept. 21.

**Jeff Francoeur**, **Willie Harris**, **Kelly Johnson** and **Brian Snitker** were scheduled to appear at the first event. The Power Lunch series, presented by Publix, benefits the non-profit Atlanta Braves Foundation.

The lunches, which include a fan Q&A session with the players and coaches, run from noon to 1 p.m. Doors open at 11 a.m.

Tickets are \$35. Fans can purchase tickets by calling ESPN Zone at (404) 682-3776, ext. 226. Paid admission entitles each guest to lunch, a special gift pack with an autographed item from one of the Power Lunch participants, and the opportunity to win door prizes. Tables of 10 may be reserved at a discounted price of \$315.

## TOMAHAWK TUTORING

**Willie Harris** spoke to 25 fifth-grade students from D.H. Stanton Elementary and 44 "Tomahawk Tutors" on the field before the May 10 game against San Diego. Harris encouraged the group to work hard, stay in school and excel in life as part of their day at Turner Field as recognition for a year of hard work at school.

The Braves joined D.H. Stanton Elementary for a long-term partnership in 2005 that includes tutoring, mentoring, career development activities, esteem building projects, educational and motivational school assemblies. The Tomahawk Tutors program consists of 44 Braves front office employees who spend time each week at the school, mentoring and tutoring fifth-grade students.





## BALLS & STRIKES

**A** Tickets to the Aug. 17 Braves Hall of Fame luncheon, at which **David Justice** will be inducted, are \$100 apiece. For information, call (404) 614-2310. FAX ticket orders with credit card information to (404) 614-1423 or mail checks to: Braves Museum & Hall of Fame, 755 Hank Aaron Dr., Atlanta, Ga. 30315.

**A** The Braves had the first Bark in the Park of the season May 6 at Turner Field. Fans also will be able to bring their dogs to the Sept. 9 game.

**A** The Braves and GE Money's Sales Finance unit joined to introduce the first season ticket financing program in the majors. The GE Money Sport Finance Program is available for any ticket package over \$199, which includes full or half season, 20-game plans, flex plans or by combining four-game packs. Fans purchasing ticket plans in excess of that amount are eligible to apply to take advantage of a special 90-days, no payment and no interest term if the balance is paid before the end of the promotional period.

**A** **John Smoltz, Jeff Francoeur** and mascot Homer joined Delta Air Lines officials on May 1 at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport to celebrate the airline's emergence from Chapter 11 and re-branding. The Braves representatives served as honorary Delta employees, welcoming customers, taking tickets and boarding passengers on a Delta flight.

**A** The Braves offered "Parent University," an evening of valuable life information, to the parents of D.H. Stanton students on April 26. The program provides tools for parents seeking family services and helped enrich the lives of students, teachers and their families. Topics included job search strategies, resume writing, stress management, and nutrition.

**A** Applications for grants from the Atlanta Braves Foundation are being accepted. Applications are available at [braves.com/grants](http://braves.com/grants), and the deadline for submission is July 31.

## OUR STARTING ROTATION IS BEGINNING TO SHAPE UP

**IT'S GREAT TO SEE** this team off to such a good start, but I'm not surprised. We have a strong team. I would characterize the first two months of the season as solid.

Even back in spring training we were solid. All the things we hoped to get accomplished there we did. We got our bullpen straightened out. We got Kelly Johnson going at second base, and everything else just fell into place.

We have a good bench with a number of guys who can play more than a couple of positions. We have Matt Diaz and Craig Wilson who can play first, left and catch, if they had to. Pete Orr is our pinch-hitter and pinch-runner, and I feel badly that I didn't get him into a game (as a starter) sooner. Woodward can play first, second, short, third and left. It's a versatile bench that we can draw from.

Having a versatile bench is absolutely essential these days, because almost all teams carry 12 pitchers, so you only have five players on the bench. Years ago, nine was the magic number of pitchers, sometimes 10, so you'd have seven players on the bench.

With fewer players on the bench, it's even more important that those who are there are able to play more than one position. When we make our selections for bench players, we look for those guys who are able to go into a game and play defense, play more than one position, and those who can get in there and hit.

I don't think enough has been said about the impact Glenn Hubbard has made on our team through his work with Kelly Johnson - during the off-season, during spring training and in the early going of the season. That's one reason Kelly's progress at second isn't surprising. He's a good ballplayer, and Hubby's about as good an infield coach as you're ever going to see.

I think our starting rotation is beginning to look really good. Any time you've got two guys like John Smoltz and Tim Hudson leading it, you're going to have a good rotation. I don't care who the other three guys are.

Chuck James has been good. He had a couple of bad games, but he was one of our best guys last year. He started hot, and his stuff is still good. Kyle Davies has come on, and we have another young pitcher, Anthony Lerew, who's coming on.

Mark Redman had a toe operation and still can't throw. Lance Cormier will still be in the mix. I think now we have choices, which is good.

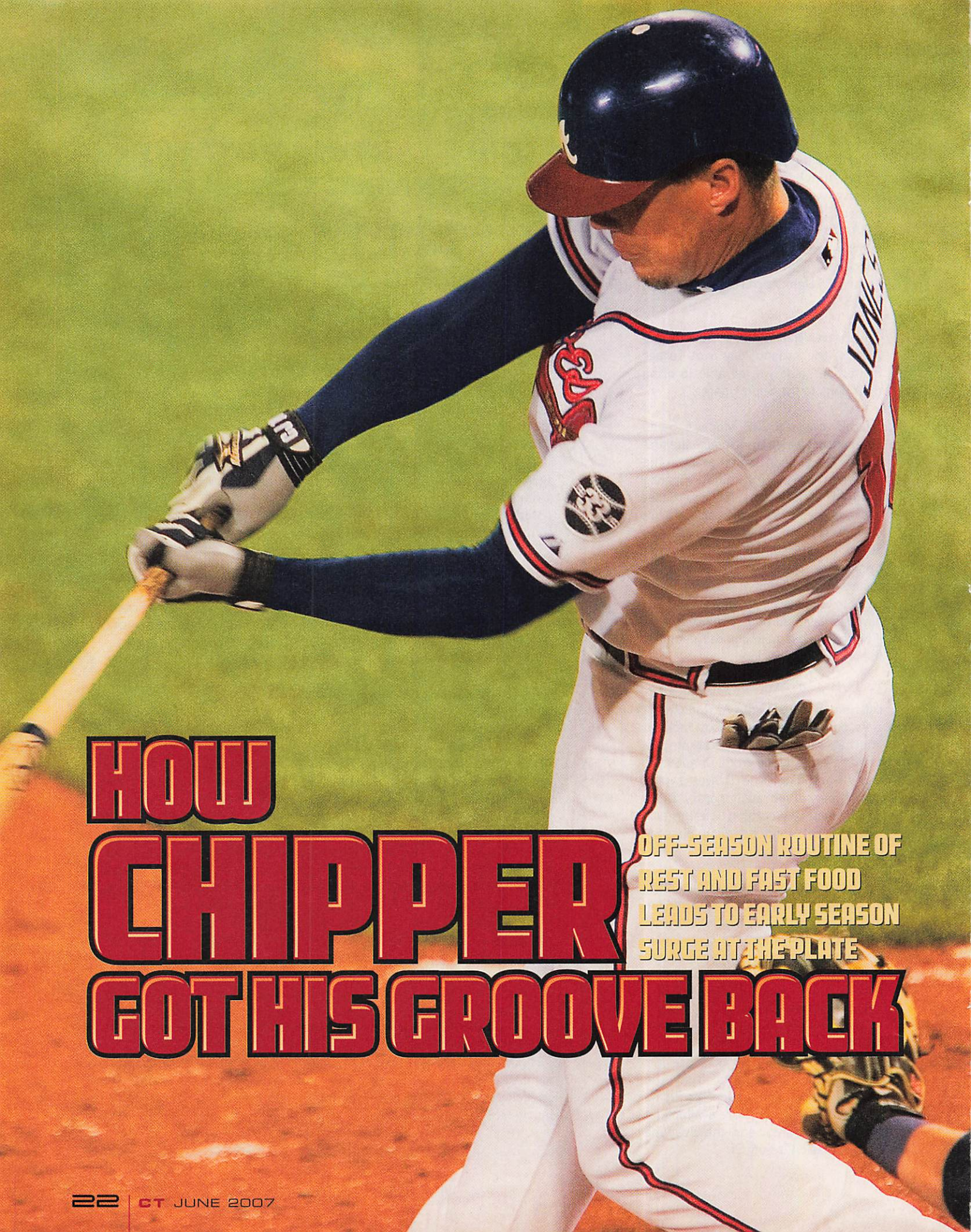
The bullpen has been everything we intended it to be. It's strong, from start to finish. We've got guys who can handle those long innings, and having three major league closers has shared the load.

All of us enjoyed getting our first look at Jarrod Saltalamacchia when he was called up after Brayan Pena was placed on the disabled list. He's done more than you could expect, handling the pitching staff, calling the game, getting the clutch hit here and there, throwing runners out, blocking balls. He's done everything.

There's nothing negative about that kid. He just turned 22. He handled the pressure and scrutiny of playing on a winning team. He's a complete catcher right now. You're talking about a switch-hitter with power, and he's smart. He's the entire package.

“THE BULLPEN HAS BEEN EVERYTHING WE INTENDED IT TO BE. IT'S STRONG, FROM START TO FINISH.”





# HOW CHIPPER GOT HIS GROOVE BACK

OFF-SEASON ROUTINE OF  
REST AND FAST FOOD  
LEADS TO EARLY SEASON  
SURGE AT THE PLATE



**T**hese days, if you're sitting in the outfield stands when Chipper Jones comes to the plate, you'd better keep your eyes on the game. He's delivering souvenirs with league-leading frequency, and you don't want to be the one talking on a cell phone when a home run lands in your lap.

As a result of Chipper's longball heroics, the Braves are playing with a swagger not seen around these parts in a couple of years. The team's stacking up win after convincing win. The fans are ecstatic. Matter of fact, everybody south of Philly is absolutely thrilled with how No. 10's leading the charge. Everybody, that is, except Chipper himself.

What?

Make no mistake, Chipper's pleased with the wallbanging results of his early-season power surge. He's changing games with every swing of the bat, sending balls caroming all over Turner Field, posting numbers reminiscent of his 1999 MVP season.

But he still doesn't think he's found his 2007 groove.

"Honestly, I'm not there yet," he said. "When I do get my hits, they're homers and doubles. I haven't strung together a bunch of multi-hit games in a row yet. I don't see myself as a home run hitter. I always want to be a .300 hitter."

Even though it seems like he's been around forever, Chipper only turned 35 in April. But as Indiana Jones once said, "It's not the years, it's the mileage," and Chipper's put some serious wear on his tires over his 14 seasons in Atlanta. For starters, all his post-season play - 92 games - is approaching the equivalent of another full season, and each round of playoffs cut into his off-season recovery time. Since 1995, he's never played less than 110 games in a year, and from 1996 to 2003 he never missed more than nine games in a season.

Then came 2005 and 2006, when he sat for 50-plus games in each due to a variety of ailments.

"Those are two years I'm sure he wishes he could have back," said Kelly Johnson, no stranger to lost years himself, having missed all of 2006 due to elbow surgery. "He played a lot of seasons of 150-plus games in a row. That's going to take its toll. He dodged 10 years' worth of bullets, and it bit him these last two years."

So after the 2006 season, Chipper decided a new exercise regimen was in order. More specifically, he decided no exercise regimen was in order.

"In the off-season, usually he lifts like crazy and hits every day," said Larry Jones, Chipper's dad and longtime mentor. "This off-season, he got to the ranch (in Texas) and said, 'Dad, I'm going to let my body heal this off-season. I'm not lifting anything, I'm not picking up a bat till January.' Quite honestly, I didn't think much of the idea when he told me about it. But it was a good one."

Chipper made two other significant changes to his off-season preparation. First, he started wearing larger shoes to help com-

bat the bunion pain that plagues him. Next, he decided to take a whole new approach to mealtime.

Just before the season, Chipper laughed about how he switched from protein shakes to milkshakes, from a diet prescribed by professional nutritionists to one recommended by Ronald McDonald. He compared himself to John Kruk, the burly ex-Phillie who posted All-Star-caliber seasons while having, at best, a passing familiarity with physical fitness.

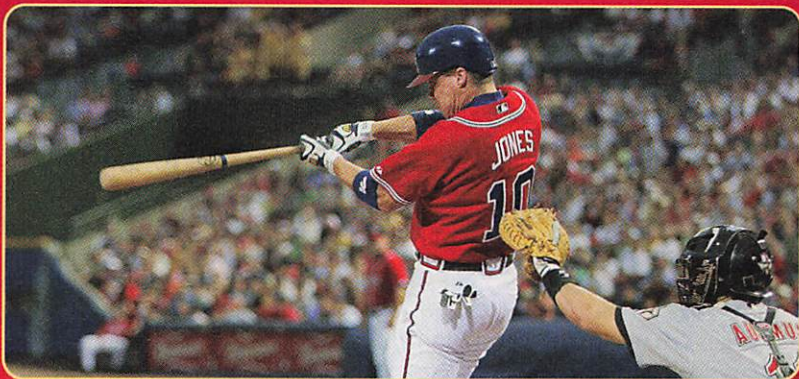
"My weight was way down at the end of last year," Chipper said recently in explaining his decision to switch to a teenager's dream diet. "So I hit McDonald's pretty hard. I'd had enough of the healthy stuff."

Maybe it's not the best message for his younger fans, but the Milkshake Diet has been paying early dividends; virtually every

## # IN THE GROOVE

- \* HIT IN 24 OF FIRST 27 GAMES.
- \* 12-GAME HITTING STREAK (APRIL 20-MAY 2).
- \* TIED FOR FIRST IN NL WITH 10 HOME RUNS.
- \* EIGHT HOME RUNS IN APRIL TIED CAREER HIGH.
- \* TIED FOR SECOND IN NL WITH 19 EXTRA-BASE HITS.
- \* THIRD IN SLUGGING PERCENTAGE (.632).
- \* TIED FOR FOURTH IN NL WITH 74 TOTAL BASES.
- \* 367 CAREER HOME RUNS, 4 SHY OF DALE MURPHY'S ATLANTA RECORD.
- \* ONLY SWITCH-HITTER IN HISTORY WITH .300 CAREER AVERAGE & 300+ HOME RUNS.

# AS OF MAY 7



ALLISON SHARP/REUTERS

one of Chipper's early-season homers has changed a game.

"It's not so much a matter of him being rejuvenated as it is just staying healthy," said Jeff Francoeur. "He's always been one of the best players in the game, but when you go off and on (the disabled list) like he's been, it's tough to get a rhythm going. Now he's healthy, and he's fun to watch."

Chipper's home run success has rubbed off on Francoeur and the rest of the Braves. This season, balls have flown out of Turner Field more frequently than morning flights out of Hartsfield-Jackson. As a result, Atlanta ranks among the major league leaders in home runs and slugging percentage.

The moonshots make for thrilling games, no doubt, but the Braves can't count on walk-walk-homer as a consistent winning formula. Nobody knows this better than Chipper himself. He's seen too many post-seasons end with the Braves swinging for the fences

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## MY HIGH SCHOOL COACH PUT THE INTENSITY IN ME

**I LIKE THE NATIONAL LEAGUE** because of the type of player I am. There are plenty of ways to get on the field and get in the game. Even if you don't start, there's always a chance to get in late - on a double-switch or pinch-hitting. That plays to my versatility, being able to play lots of different positions, get the pinch-hit, or pinch-run and steal a base.

I came up as a second baseman, and I love to play second. If I had to choose one position, it would be second base - or center field, because it's in the middle and there's always something going on around those two positions. I like being in the mix of things.

My focus on versatility started in Double A with the Orioles. One of the coaches and minor league coordinators had me take flyballs in centerfield, all over the outfield, took groundballs at shortstop and third base.

He said, "You know, Willie, you can have a successful career. You can run. You're a left-handed bat. You can have a long career if you'll learn all these positions and get comfortable with them."

From that day on, that's what I've been doing. Even if I'm not playing a position or haven't played that position the entire year, during batting practice I'm still out there working at those positions, because you never know what can happen during the course of a game. You don't want to be caught off guard.

There's self discipline required to stay in the game, mentally and physically. This is my job. I don't take it for granted, because there are players all over this country trying to get here. Once you slack off or leave a little crack in that door, somebody can come in, slam the door, and you're done.

You definitely have to get the work in, especially on the days when you aren't playing. Those are the days you should get in the weight room and bust it, work extra hard during batting practice and try to keep your swing right.

I was always more into football than baseball in high school. I never took baseball seriously until I got to college (Middle Georgia Junior College, then Kennesaw State University). In high school, I was all about football. I was going to play wide receiver at Florida State University, and there were a bunch of schools looking at me.

That's what I wanted to do until I started thinking, "I'm not very big." There were guys 6-foot-3 just as fast as I was, or faster, and I said, "Forget that, I'm going to try to play baseball and get an education."

I watched the Braves when I was growing up and always watched the guys in the middle, guys like Mark Lemke, Jeff Blauser, Jeff Treadway, Glenn Hubbard, Andres Thomas and Dale Murphy. He was probably the only outfielder that I really loved, especially the way he waggled the bat when he was in the batter's box.

The impact of playing in the 2005 World Series (with the White Sox) didn't really hit me until afterward. During the parade, I realized, "This is awesome! I'm from Cairo (Ga.)! This kind of stuff happens to guys from Miami or big cities."

I saw that working hard and staying humble and playing my game paid off. I've had some people in my life who have been really influential. My mom is number one. I had a high school football coach, Steve Bench, who was really tough. Other than my family, my mom and dad raising me, Steve Bench is who put the intensity in me.

but hitting nothing except air. He's also been around long enough to know that a good April means exactly nothing come October.

"I had a pretty good start in 1998, and I didn't do much after the first month and a half," Chipper said. (That's a matter of opinion; he finished with a .313 average and an All-Star berth, and ranked ninth in MVP voting.) "So I'm just going to ride the wave as long as it lasts. But I'm a lot smarter hitter than I was back then, so hopefully I can keep it going."

Through the first few weeks of the season, he led the league in homers, and his slugging percentage ranked second only to Barry Bonds, yet his average still hovered around .300. Which means that he wasn't hitting as many balls as he usually does, but the ones he did get hold of were going a long way. Good, but not good enough for what Chipper expects of himself.

"He's only getting one or two good swings a ballgame," Larry Jones agreed. "He's making them count, but he's still only getting one or two. I feel like at times, he's still doing too much 'working' (on technique) and not enough hitting. At this point (in the season), you need to just react to whatever shows up."

"I've seen this before with him," said Terry Pendleton. "He's right - he's not where he wants to be. But he is getting there. [The hits will] start falling the way he wants them to."

Of course, all the off-season preparation and in-season momentum could come to a grinding halt if Chipper tweaks an oblique yanking a ball into the cheap seats. No one would go so far as to call Chipper fragile, but the hundred-plus games he's missed over the past two seasons are enough to slather a heavy dose of caution on everything he does.

"Chipper's Chipper," Pendleton said with Zen-like simplicity. "Our concern's not that he's going to hit. We know he's going to do that. We just need to keep him healthy."

Chipper's recent injuries have obscured the fact that, from a statistical standpoint, he's never really gone away; he's hit over .300 in all but three seasons since 1995, and in two of those he hit .295 and .296. But the injuries have made him a streaky hitter, forcing him to make up ground when he gets healthy. It chafes at him. Running hot, then cold isn't in his nature.

"I try to be a tough out every time up," he said. "When you see me go out and string multi-hit games together, hitting balls into the gap, that's when you'll know I'm hitting my stride. Don't get me wrong, I'm enjoying [the homers]. But it can get better."

You can hear the trembling in Shea Stadium from here.

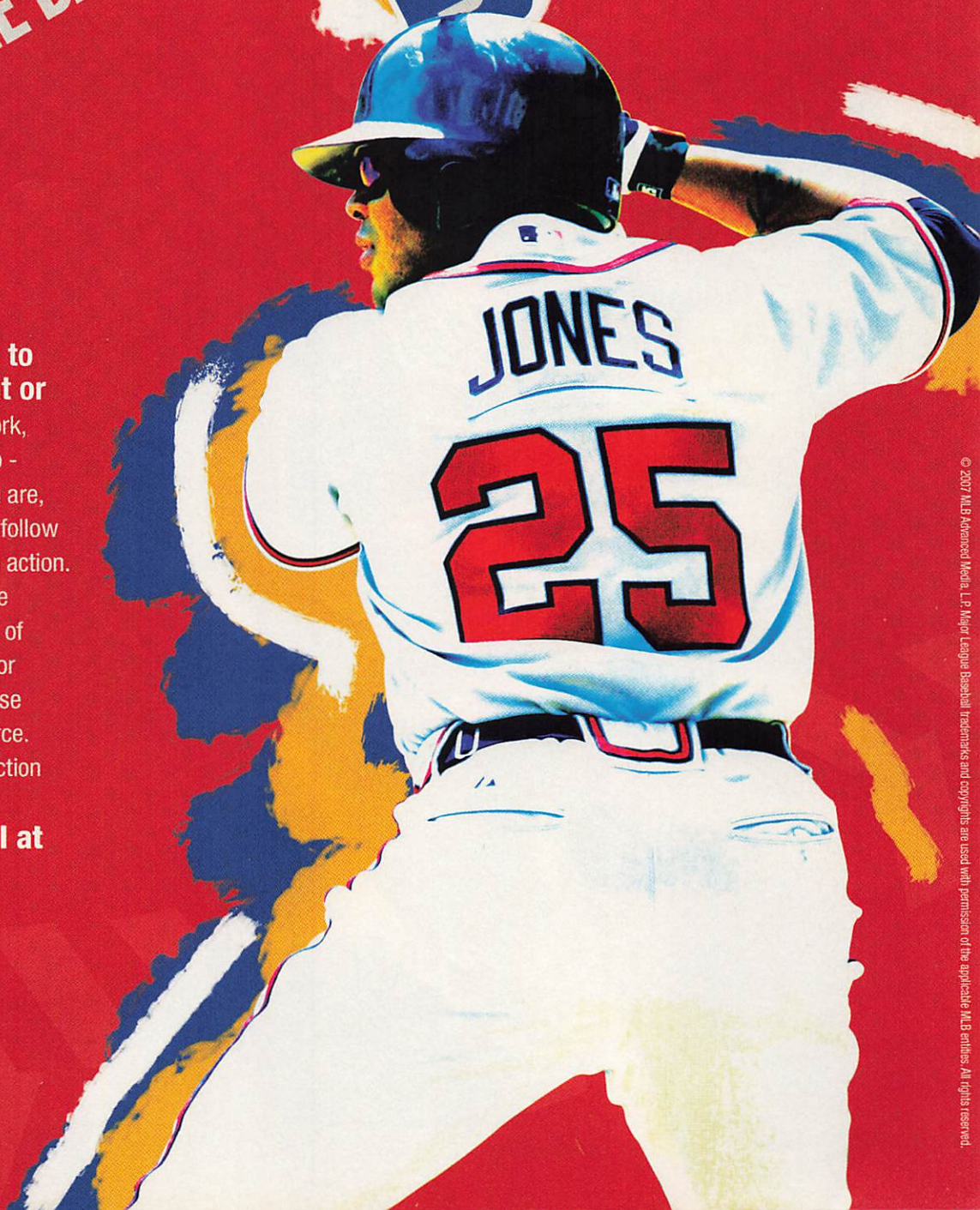
**THE IMPACT OF PLAYING IN THE 2005 WORLD SERIES DIDN'T REALLY HIT ME UNTIL AFTERWARD.**



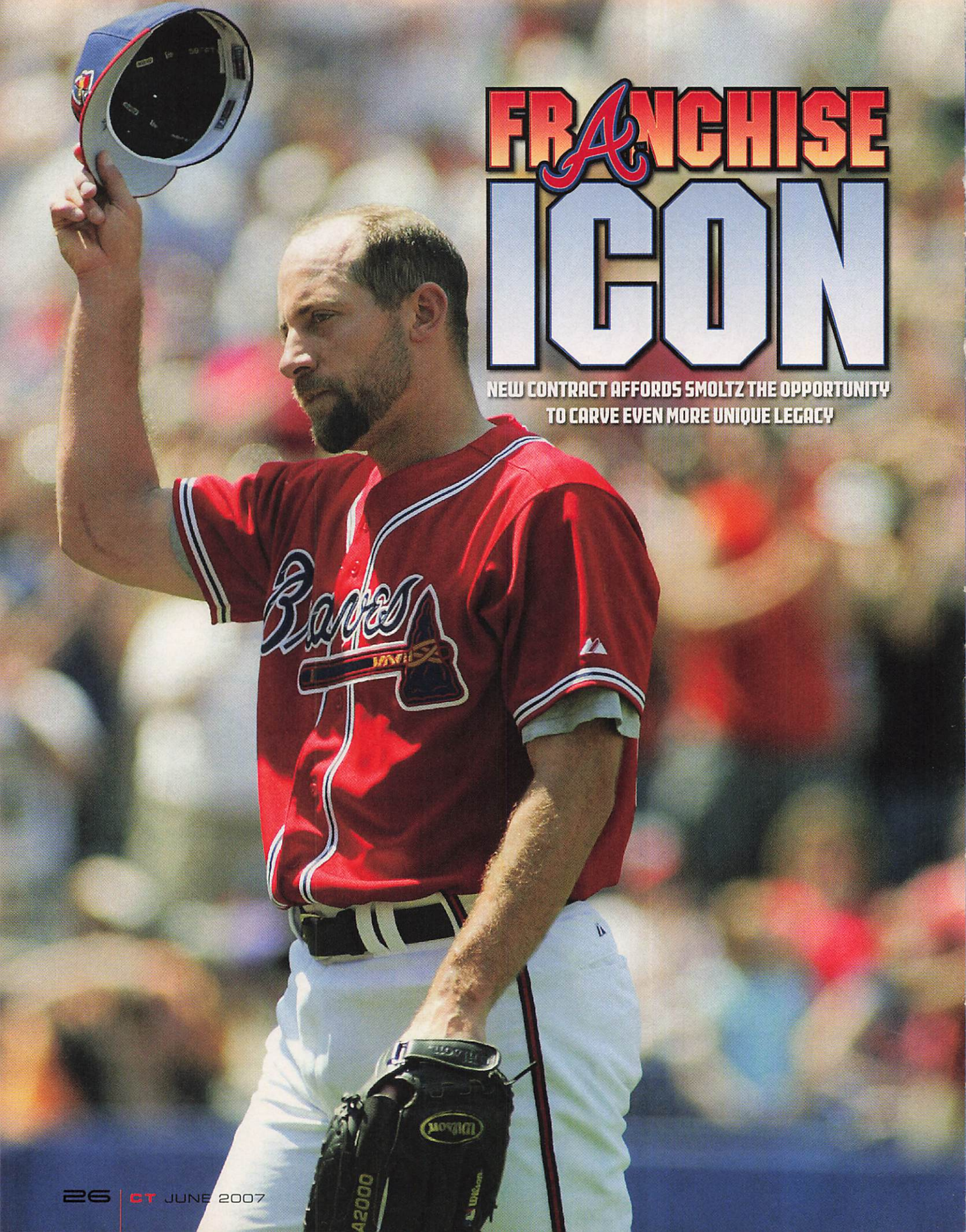
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TO THE BALLGAME

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# FRANCHISE ICON

NEW CONTRACT AFFORDS SMOITZ THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO CARVE EVEN MORE UNIQUE LEGACY



**H**all of Famers Warren Spahn, Phil Niekro and Kid Nichols weren't able to pitch their entire careers with the Braves. Neither were Lou Burdette and Johnny Sain, members of the franchise Hall of Fame. The same, of course, can be said for future Hall of Famers Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux.

John Smoltz, armed with a new contract that could keep him in a Braves uniform through the 2010 season when he'll be 43, has the opportunity to do what no other pitching great in franchise history has achieved - remain a Brave for his entire big league career.

"It's been a long, hard, incredible ride that hopefully will end where I wanted it to end," he said. "That's with one team and one city and one uniform."

On April 26, Smoltz and the Braves took a major step in that direction when they agreed to a contract extension through 2008 with an option for 2009 that kicks in if he pitches 200 innings in 2008, and a team option for 2010.

"He likes the organization, he likes the city. He's pitched here for less (money), you bet," said Bobby Cox. "He could have made a lot more money somewhere else. He's still in the elite ranking of pitchers. He's as good right now as he's ever been in his career. I don't see any difference."

If anyone would notice a difference, it would be Cox, who engineered the Aug. 12, 1987, trade with Detroit that brought Smoltz, then at Double-A Glens Falls, to the Braves for veteran Doyle Alexander. Cox is also the only manager Smoltz has pitched for on the major league level.

"That has been the greatest privilege, and that's the reason I'm here," said Smoltz of playing for Cox. "There's a good chance I'd be somewhere else if they had changed managers a few times."

When Smoltz walks out to the mound, the ultra-competitive 40-year-old is there to win. At the end of the day, there's no doubt he's given all he had - win, lose or no-decision. It's been that way now for 20 seasons.

"[John Smoltz is a] competitor, and it doesn't just pertain to baseball. It could be anything - golf, checkers. It's the way he was built... it's what fuels him," said Chipper Jones. "On the golf course, in the clubhouse, at his house, whatever he's doing, he's got to do it better than the next guy. It's what has made him so outstanding in his career."

From 1990 through 1993, Smoltz made at least 34 starts each season, and eight times in his career, he's made 33 or more starts. In fact, the only time the Braves didn't have a healthy John Smoltz getting the ball every fifth day was in 2000 - when he missed the entire season due to elbow surgery - and from the middle of 2001 through 2004, when he had the chance to get it every day as the most reliable closer in franchise history.

Smoltz not only rewrote the team's bullpen record book - he's the only Braves reliever with three consecutive 30-save seasons and holds the career record of 154 saves - but he also raised the bar for the National League. In 2002, his first full season as a closer, he set an NL record for saves in a season (55) and new marks for the fastest closer to 40 saves (114 games) and 50 saves (143). The next season, he shaved six games off his record to 40 saves and became the fastest to 100 saves (151 games - he needed only 108 opportunities). In his three seasons as closer, he had a .917 conversion rate (154 saves in 168 chances), third behind LA's Eric Gagne (.962) and San Diego's Trevor Hoffman (.924).

But, looking back, saving games was something of a necessary evil to Smoltz. He did it because the team needed him to do it.

"The reality was that closing for me was an incredible challenge, one that I was able to do for three years," he said. "But starting is what I'll always be remembered for."

And what memories he has created.

Cox calls Smoltz "a Hall of Famer from the word 'Go.'" A case in point was his major league debut, an eight-inning, one-run, four-hit effort to beat the Mets on July 23, 1988.

In 1989, Smoltz's first full season in the majors, the 22-year-old became the youngest All-Star pitcher in Braves history, the youngest All-Star in Atlanta history (matched last year by Brian McCann), and the third-youngest All-Star in Braves history (only Eddie Mathews in 1952 and Hank Aaron in 1954 were younger).

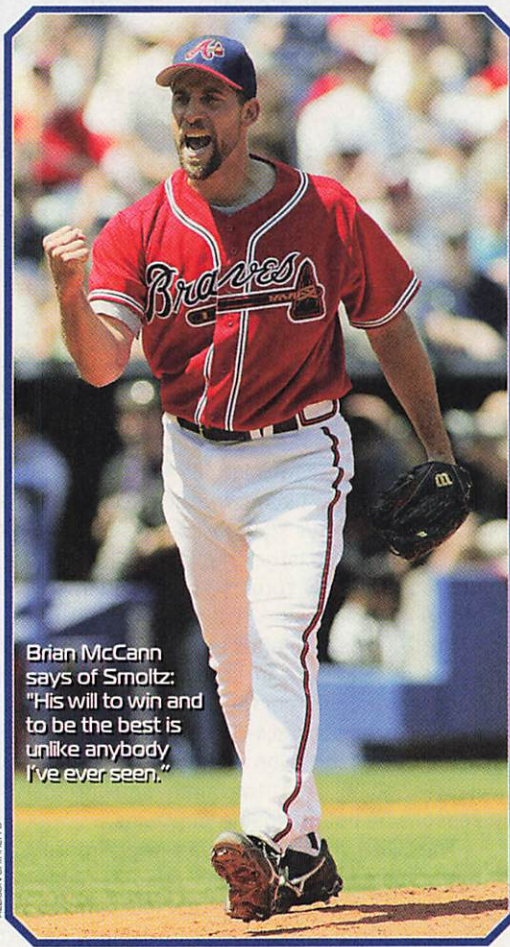
Smoltz finished 12-11 with a 2.94 ERA and gave a preview of his all-around athleticism on May 3 of that season, when he pitched his first complete game against the Phillies and hit his first major league home run.

He started slowly the next year, 3-6, but finished 14-11. The 10-3 stretch he put together in 1990 was special, but it pales in comparison to the stunning turnaround he and the Braves had in store for 1991.

Smoltz began '91 at 2-11 with a 5.16 ERA in 18 starts before the All-Star break, and the Braves, who had suffered five 90-plus-loss seasons in the previous six, were in third place, 9 1/2 games behind the Dodgers. The second half would be a complete, 180-degree change for both, with Smoltz going 12-2, with a 2.62 ERA, and Atlanta going 55-28 to edge the Dodgers and win the NL West.

"I remember I needed a break, and the All-Star Break was a big, big time for me," he recalled. "Then, when I turned it around in the second half, I had to prove it to myself. Once I proved it to myself, I felt I was unbeatable. I got back to the things that I was used to doing."

Smoltz finished 8-1 with a 1.49 ERA in his final 13 starts and didn't allow a home run in his last 96 1/3 innings. Atlanta, which had been 3-15 in Smoltz's 18 first-half starts, was 15-3 in



Brian McCann says of Smoltz: "His will to win and to be the best is unlike anybody I've ever seen."

ALLISON SHIREFFS

ALLISON SHIREFFS



his final 18. He clinched the division title on Oct. 5, then won Game 7 of the NLCS with a complete-game, six-hit shutout in Pittsburgh. His attempt for the clinching tri-*f*ecta fell short in Game 7 of the World Series at Minnesota, but he heroically kept the Braves in it, pitching against his boyhood idol, Jack Morris.

"It was crazy. It was one of those situations that you can never even imagine," he said. "Certainly to go toe-to-toe with him for eight strong innings was something that I'll never forget."

The post-season heroics were just beginning for Smoltz, who still holds the major league career record for post-season wins with 15 (.789 winning percentage), as well as strikeouts (194 in 207 innings). He also holds the record for the most career hits in the post-season by a pitcher (12, two more than good friend and long-time teammate Tom Glavine).

"The way he battles, just the competitiveness," said Terry Pendleton, a teammate of Smoltz's in the '90s. "He wants to win. The bottom line - it doesn't matter what the cost is, that's John Smoltz."

As the Braves became the dominant team in baseball throughout the '90s, getting to the World Series four times in the five years it was held between 1991 and 1996, Smoltz became the team's workhorse even though he frequently was overshadowed by Steve Avery, Glavine and later, Maddux.

But Smoltz simply enjoyed being part of that remarkable staff.

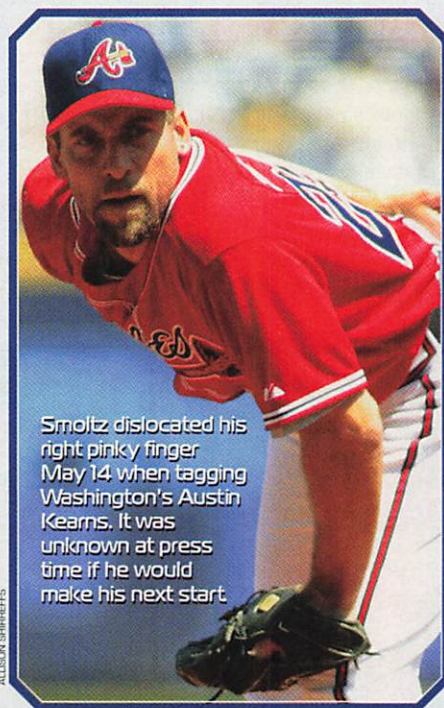
"Those 10 years, it just doesn't get any better," he recalled with a smile. "I could go on for hours talking about all the great moments, but it just doesn't get any better. Period."

He, of course, cherishes the team's 1995 World Series championship, but his day in the sun really came the following season. As the Braves went about defending their championship, Smoltz continued the Braves' pitching dominance that saw Atlanta pitchers win four Cy Young Awards in five years.

Smoltz took home the prestigious award that year, winning a career-high 24 games (24-8), with a 2.94 ERA, striking out a career-high 276 in 253 2/3 innings. He also set his career high and a franchise high with a 14-game winning streak (April 9-June 19). Naturally, he pitched the division-clinching game, an 8-2 win over Montreal, and hit the go-ahead three-run homer in the game. In the playoffs, he was even better, going 4-1 with 0.95 ERA. In the World Series, he allowed only one earned run and six hits in 14 innings in two starts, including

a stirring 10-strikeout effort in Atlanta's 1-0 loss in Game 5. That effort matched Steve Carlton in Game 2 of the 1980 Series for most strikeouts by a losing pitcher in a World Series game.

"1996 was special from an individual standpoint in that it was probably one of my greatest years," Smoltz recalled. "I was the healthiest I'd been in so long. The team was outstanding. The bullpen saved every game that I had a chance to win. We were a dynamite team that should have won it all. It was the best team we've ever had, I think, from top to bottom. Ultimately, we came up short against a team that, if you believe in fate, was dealing with fate."



Smoltz dislocated his right pinky finger May 14 when tagging Washington's Austin Kearns. It was unknown at press time if he would make his next start.

ALLISON SHIFFRINS

Fate would test Smoltz in the ensuing years. Following the 1997 season, in which he started a team-high 35 games and became the first pitcher in franchise history to record four 200-strikeout seasons, Smoltz missed a large chunk of 1998, after off-season elbow surgery and an inflamed elbow in his fifth start. Then he missed the entire 2000 season after tearing his medial collateral ligament in spring training. Yet each test brought out the best in Smoltz.

In 1998, he started 4-0 for the first time in his career, and won 85 percent of his games, going 17-3, the ninth time in 10 seasons he put up double-digit wins.

The 2001 comeback was even more remarkable. Desperate for bullpen help, the Braves moved the 34-year-old Smoltz into the closer's role. Not surprisingly, he

excelled, recording his first regular-season save on Aug. 17 in San Francisco, striking out Barry Bonds as the first hitter he faced. He saved his first seven opportunities and 10 of 11 overall.

Over the next three seasons, he recorded 154 saves, including a club-record 25 straight in 2002, to become only the second pitcher in history to earn 150 wins and 150 saves - Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley is the only other pitcher to do so.

In 2005, after the departures of Maddux and Glavine, Smoltz was moved back into the starting rotation, and he pitched as if he'd never left. He won 14 games with a 3.06 earned run average, his best full-season ERA as a starter since 1997, and became the first pitcher in history to follow a 40-save season with a 200-inning season (no pitcher had gone more than 150 innings). He also won the prestigious Roberto Clemente Award, given by Major League Baseball in recognition of commitment to the community.

In 2006, while the Braves consecutive division titles streak was halted, Smoltz was as dominating as ever, putting up Cy Young Award-worthy numbers, 16 wins - the bullpen blew saves in six other games - and 211 strikeouts in 232 innings.

With the departure of Glavine, Smoltz became the last player from the worst-to-first team that began the historic run of 14 consecutive division championships.

"It is [weird]," said Smoltz. "A lot of twists and turns took me to this point. It wasn't just a straight and narrow road, but it has all worked for a greater cause."

Smoltz sees an interesting symmetry to his career, thanks to the Braves' core of youngsters that features Brian McCann, Jeff Francoeur and Kyle Davies, local kids that grew up watching him pitch on television.

"In an eerie way, when I broke in, we were a very young team, kind of a lost team," he said. "Now to see it come full circle is kind of neat."

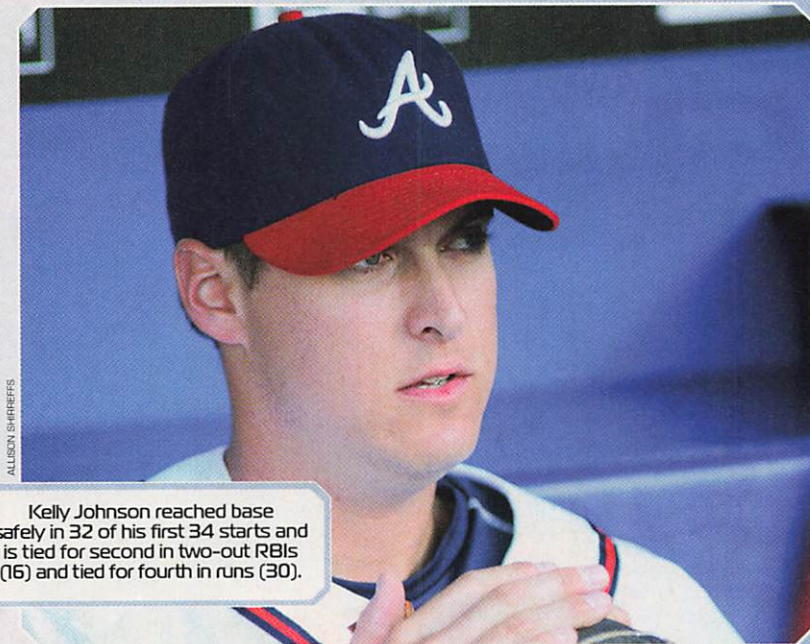
While Smoltz has brushed off talk of his legacy in the past, now that he is almost guaranteed to finish his career as a Brave, he's a little more willing to consider his place in franchise history.

"I think [I'll be remembered as], if you had to win one game, I'm the guy that you want on the mound," he said in the soft, firm voice that has become his signature. "Hopefully, that's the way people will remember me. When it counted the most - playoffs obviously count the most - I was in a position to give us a chance to win more times than not."









Kelly Johnson reached base safely in 32 of his first 34 starts and is tied for second in two-out RBIs (16) and tied for fourth in runs (30).

Johnson, meanwhile, took to the responsibility like someone who had hit there his entire career. On pace to draw more than 140 walks – no Brave has come close to that number since Dale Murphy walked 131 times in 1983 – Johnson's patient approach and uncanny command of the strike zone is making life miserable for opposing pitchers.

"He has always had a great eye," Pendleton said. "He's got one of the best I've ever seen, which means they've got to pitch to him. Plus, he can put you in the seats if you make a mistake."

For a player who spent his minor league career as a heart-of-the-order run producer, Johnson's transition has been surprisingly smooth.

"I think the biggest thing with the move to the leadoff spot is not changing who you are," Johnson said. "The last thing you want to do is alter the way you do things to fit some prototype."

While Johnson lacks the speed of today's prototypical leadoff men, his plate discipline and ability to get on base consistently secured his spot atop the Atlanta lineup. His stoic approach serves the team well.

"You try not to do too much," Johnson said. "You don't ever want to do that. In the end, you'll make yourself an easy out. Pitchers make their pitches for guys like that."

Though a slow start – Johnson opened the season with six hits in his first 40 at-bats (.150) – led to public calls for the former first-round draft pick to be moved lower in the order, he weathered the early-season trial and earned the respect of his coaches and teammates.

"It was hard," Johnson said. "I'm a notoriously slow starter. It gets to a point where you wonder, 'Why can't I get off to a good start?' There are times where you're just not seeing the ball. It has nothing to do with you not being a good player. The key is to know how to deal with it. T.P. [Pendleton] told me, 'Hey, don't worry. We're going to get you right.' A couple of days later, I got four hits."

The presence of veterans like the Joneses and Renteria eased whatever anxiety Johnson may have felt

when he started the season ice cold.

"When you watch the veterans on this team, you don't see them getting frustrated [when they're in slumps]," Johnson said. "They know they're going to get out of it."

Management's faith in the 25-year-old Texan never wavered, even as he was learning to balance the responsibilities of a leadoff hitter with a challenging position switch from left field to second base. What's more, he missed the entire 2006 season after undergoing ligament-transplant surgery on his right elbow and had little time to knock off the rust.

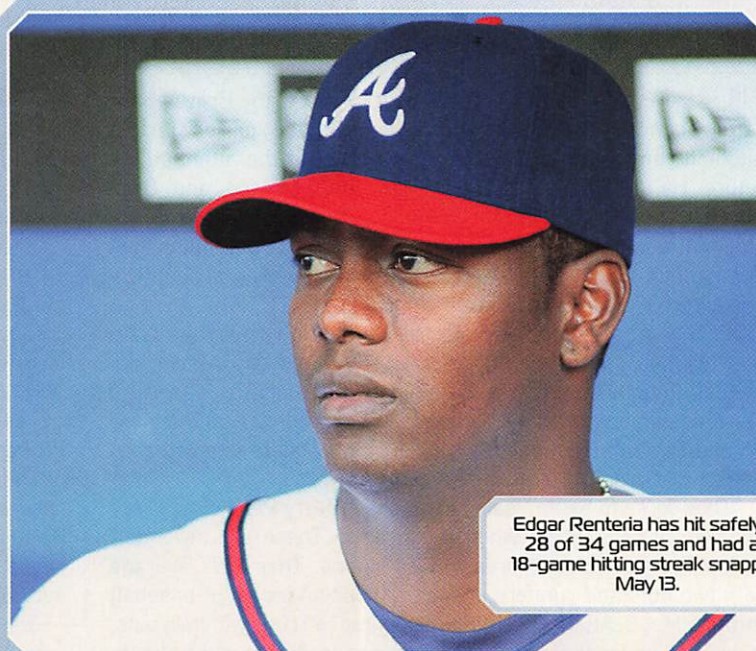
Johnson is hardly the only reason behind Atlanta's surge at the plate. The rise of a new and improved Jeff Francoeur stabilized the lineup and provided added protection and depth behind the Joneses and Brian McCann.

Known for his kamikaze approach at the plate, Francoeur remade himself during the off-season, as he widened his stance, cut down on his prodigious swing, and learned to hit the ball to the opposite field when situations dictated he do so. He did not rest on a successful sophomore season in which he hit 29 home runs and knocked in 103.

"I definitely had a good year last year, but I'd be lying to you if I said I wasn't disappointed in my batting average (.260) and on-base percentage (.293)," Francoeur said. "People were giving me grief about my [lack of] walks. I wanted to show [them] I could be more selective. That's the difference between hitting .260 and .290."

The rightfielder started retooling his swing in January and spent three to four days a week in the batting cage before heading to spring training. Pendleton says he saw a different Francoeur the day the former first-round pick reported to camp. He had improved his discipline without sacrificing his aggressiveness.

"He came to spring training with the attitude he was going to see the ball better," Pendleton said. "He's an athlete. He wants to succeed."



Edgar Renteria has hit safely in 28 of 34 games and had an 18-game hitting streak snapped May 13.





One of three Braves – along with Johnson and Renteria – batting .400 or better with two outs and runners in scoring position, Francoeur's off-season work paid immediate dividends. By showing a willingness to serve the ball to right field, Francoeur provides the opposition fewer and fewer ways to get him out.

"Do I think I'm a tougher out? Absolutely," Francoeur said. "You want pitchers to have to [have a] game plan for you."

Francoeur's newfound patience led to 11 walks in Atlanta's first 32 games – nearly half of his total (23) from all of last season when he played all 162 games. He believes his willingness to work the count will lead to fewer prolonged slumps.

"I'm trying to force pitchers to come to my strengths," Francoeur said. "I'm trying to stay consistent. You know you're going to have your ups and downs, but instead of having those slumps where you go a week without getting a hit, you only go a couple of days."

Johnson's emergence at the top, continued production from veterans in the heart of the order, and improvement from young stars like McCann and Francoeur has made the Atlanta offense a force to be reckoned with.

Consistent run production has also allowed the starting pitchers room to breathe on nights when they lack their best stuff. Twelve of the Braves' first 21 wins were come-from-behind victories, including seven when they trailed in the sixth inning or later.

"It's nice knowing you have a lineup like that behind you," said Tim Hudson. "Obviously, you go out and try to limit the opponent, but you know there's definitely potential to come back if you fall behind. As pitchers, it allows us to be aggressive, pound the strike zone and set the tempo. We don't have to worry about being perfect."

There is room for the offense to improve. Through the middle of May, Andruw Jones had yet to produce at his accustomed level. Many of his teammates believe it is only a matter of time before the centerfielder catches fire and returns to the hitter who produced 92 home runs over the previous two seasons.

"Andruw has taken this offense and put it on his back before," Johnson said. "It could be scary. It could be like last year when we were scoring 10, 11 runs a game at times." Francoeur agrees.

"The sky's the limit for this team," Francoeur said. "If our offense keeps scoring runs and our pitching keeps going the way it has, it's going to equal a lot of wins."

## ARE HELTON, GRIFFEY ON TRADING BLOCK?

**THE ROCKIES DISCUSSED** first baseman **Todd Helton** in trades with the Red Sox and Angels last off-season, and since then, Helton has only increased his value, re-establishing himself as an elite hitter. Talks could revive if the Rockies fall out of contention. Helton, 33, is guaranteed \$16.6 million per season through 2010 and \$19.1 million in '11. Either the Rockies trade him, or eventually they will find it difficult to keep leftfielder **Matt Holliday**, who is a free agent after '09.

Reds rightfielder **Ken Griffey Jr.** is another trade candidate. In the past, he has expressed interest in playing only for teams that train near his Orlando home – most notably, the Yankees, Astros and Braves. At this stage of his career, the chance to win a World Series probably would take priority over travel convenience. Griffey, like Helton, has a no-trade clause, and would need to consent to any deal.

Brewers GM **Doug Melvin** on shortstop **J.J. Hardy**: "He's always been a disciplined hitter. And I've always felt if a guy is disciplined and remains disciplined, the power will come. An example was (the Padres') **Adrian Gonzalez**. You look back at him and (**Rafael**) **Palmeiro** – Palmeiro (569 career home runs) was traded by the Cubs because he couldn't hit for power. J.J. is somewhat similar."

The Mets were comfortable with **Damion Easley** and **Ruben Gotay** filling in for injured second baseman **Jose Valentin**, and why not? After six weeks, Easley had five home runs, as many as **Lance Berkman** and **Jason Giambi**. **Orlando Hudson**, eligible for a free agency after the 2008 season, would be a perfect long-range target for the Mets. Hudson, who has resisted the Diamondbacks' attempts to sign him to an extension, could combine with shortstop **Jose Reyes** to form the highest-energy double-play combination in major-league history.

Looking for an early AL MVP candidate, non-A-Rod division? Try Tigers rightfielder **Magglio Ordonez**, who looks as good as he did in his heyday with the White Sox. Ordonez, 33, clearly is benefiting from former Braves outfielder **Gary Sheffield** hitting in front of him in the No. 3 spot. Sheffield had a high on-base percentage even when he wasn't hitting earlier in the season. "They're pitching him like he's Babe Ruth," one executive says.

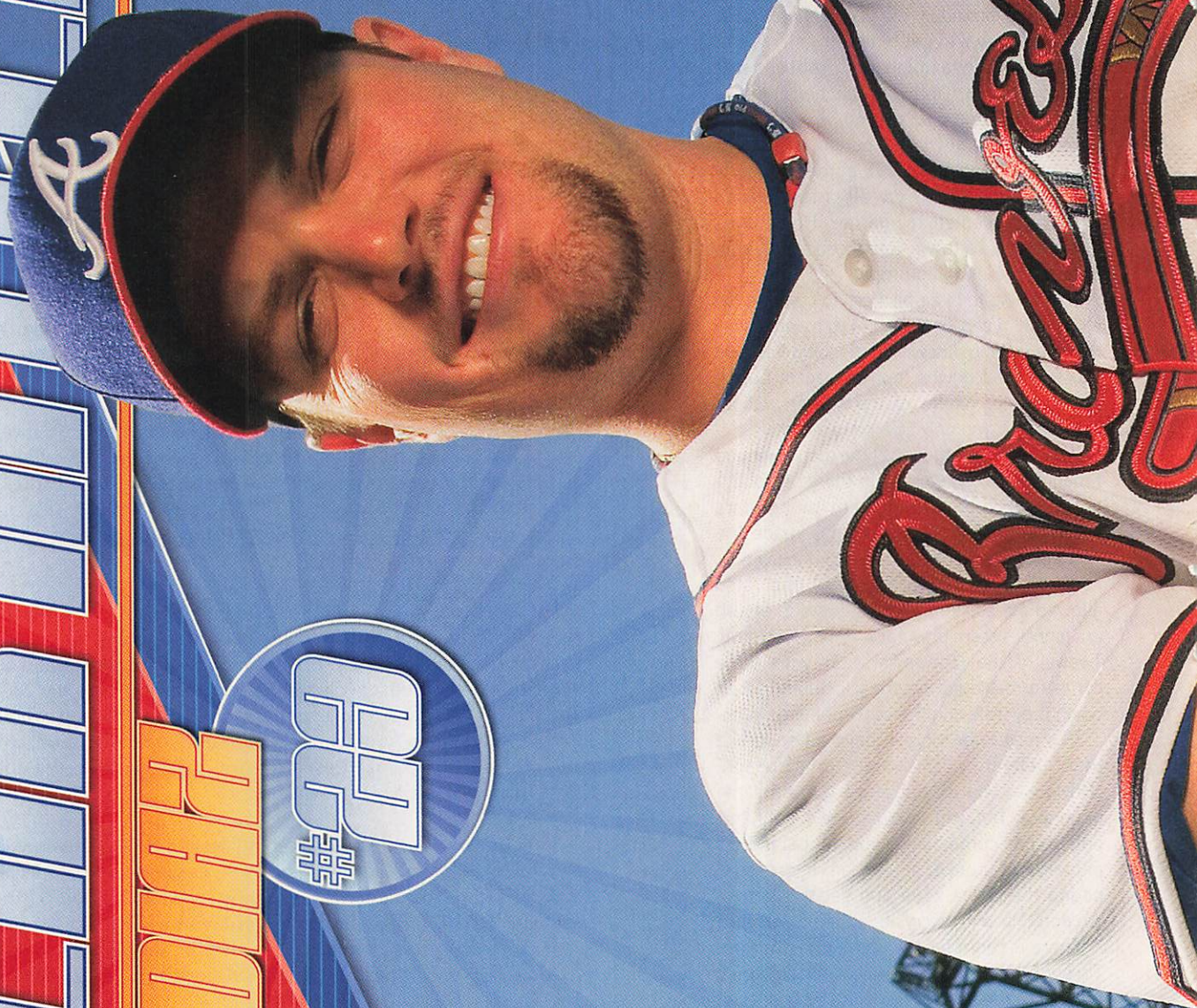
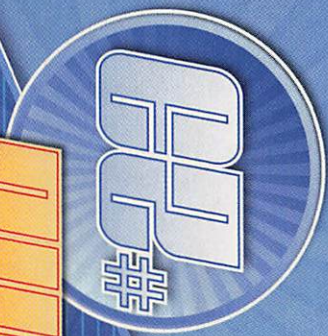
Centerfielder **Aaron Rowand** remains perhaps the Phillies' most attractive trade chip in their quest to add a reliever. Rightfielder **Shane Victorino** could replace him in center, or the Phillies could try **Michael Bourn** in that spot. Several of the team's coaches believe the speedy Bourn can play every day. The Phillies could always find another corner outfielder.

Former Braves righthander **Jason Marquis** was among the early NL ERA leaders. Marquis, 28, says he has slowed his delivery, raising his hands above his head more gradually and landing more toward third base. By driving his foot to that spot rather than swinging it, he says his arm is in position to throw any pitch. The last time Marquis felt as comfortable with his delivery was in 2004, his first season with the Cardinals.



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| <b>BIP ROBERTS</b> (CINCINNATI)    | <b>1992</b> |
| <b>WOODY WILLIAMS</b> (CINCINNATI) | <b>1943</b> |
| <b>BUDDY HASSETT</b> (BOSTON)      | <b>1940</b> |
| <b>JOE MEDWICK</b> (ST. LOUIS)     | <b>1936</b> |
| <b>CHICK HAFEEY</b> (ST. LOUIS)    | <b>1929</b> |
| <b>KIKI CUYLER</b> (PITTSBURGH)    | <b>1925</b> |
| <b>ED KONETCHY</b> (BROOKLYN)      | <b>1919</b> |





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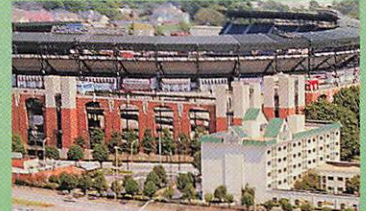
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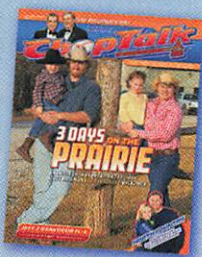
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## MORE WALKS HELPS OFFENSE REMAIN CONSISTENT

BY STEVE FALL

**ALTHOUGH THE BRAVES** rolled up the National League's second-highest run total last season (849), they rarely took advantage of one key source of offense. The free-swinging 2006 club ranked just 10th in the NL in walks (526).

The 2007 Braves should easily surpass that figure. Their 135 walks through May 9 put them on track for 663. The Boston Braves set the franchise record with 684 in 1949.

Walks impact run scoring and wins. They put runners on base – whether the hits are dropping or not – creating a more consistent, productive offense. That's huge for a lineup loaded with power hitters. While the Braves ranked sixth in batting average (.261), they had the league's fourth-highest runs scored figure (160). The long ball (38 homers) played the biggest part in that trend, but the walks also made a significant difference.

Kelly Johnson leads the team in walks (25) from the leadoff spot. That ranked sixth in the NL. Andruw Jones (24) and Chipper Jones (24) also placed near the top of the league.

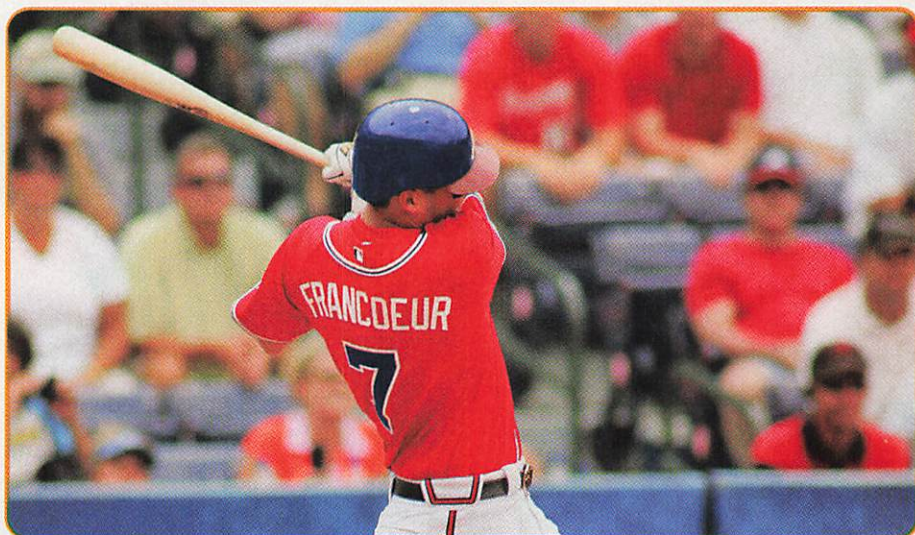
Some other Braves have demonstrated improved patience at the plate this year. Even Jeff Francoeur, who drew only 23 free passes all last season, had reached 11 times via walks already.

While Atlanta has improved in drawing walks, the team sat near the bottom of the league in both strikeouts and stolen bases. Neither is cause for great concern.

The Braves had stolen seven bases in 10 attempts. Only the Cardinals (six) had stolen fewer. Atlanta's pace puts them on track to register just 44 steals this season.

Statistical analysts see a weak correlation between stolen bases and runs scored. Many successful teams steal bases, while many others avoid the running game. During their run of 14 consecutive division championships, the Braves often placed in the lower half of the league in stolen bases. They cracked the top five in this category just twice, in 1991 (third) and 2000 (second).

Atlanta hitters have also had problems making contact this year. Only five NL teams had higher strikeout totals than the Braves (241). But many teams score runs despite high strikeout totals. The Marlins



Even Jeff Francoeur is showing more patience at the plate with 11 walks through the first 33 games, compared to only 23 all last year. Yet he's still among the NL leaders in RBIs.

led the league in runs in spite of having the most strikeouts of any club (293).

Strikeouts by themselves are bad, but most hitters with high strikeout totals bring more to the table. Andruw Jones (33 strikeouts) and Francoeur (29) ranked first and second on the club. But their big swings also produce offense to cancel the negatives of their strikeouts.



Is it possible to estimate the number of runs Andruw Jones saves the Braves in a season?

During the 2006 season, Jones registered 2.58 putouts per nine innings. All other NL centerfielders combined for a 2.53 figure. Over the course of a full season, that works out to nine more putouts, which otherwise would have been basehits. Research estimates that one single results in an average of .5 runs and a double leads to .8 runs. Assuming Jones saved an equal share of singles and doubles, those additional putouts prevented six runs over the course of 162 games using this method.

Many other factors influence these numbers. For one, the Braves had corner outfielders with tremendous range last season. They caught some flyballs that Jones could have hauled in had a slower player occupied that spot. Jones also committed

just two errors all year. The average center-fielder made errors over twice as often. So, he saved the club runs in that way, as well.

Jones' defensive numbers peaked in 1999. That year he posted a spectacular 3.07 putouts per nine innings. Using the same method, those plays led to 87 additional putouts and an estimated 57 runs saved. Since then, Jones has bulked up to add more power at the plate. Perhaps that influenced his range. Even so, Braves pitchers wouldn't want anyone else patrolling center field.



Jeff Francoeur had driven in 27 runs through May 9. That trailed only three players for the NL lead, and put him on a pace for 133 RBIs.

While it's unlikely that he can maintain that pace for the entire season, Francoeur has two things working in his favor. First of all, he bats behind hitters with excellent on-base percentages. Also, unlike many veteran sluggers, the durable Francoeur plays every day. He saw action in all 162 games last year, and had not missed one so far in 2007.

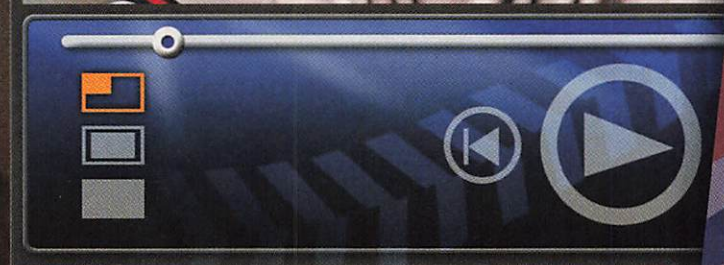
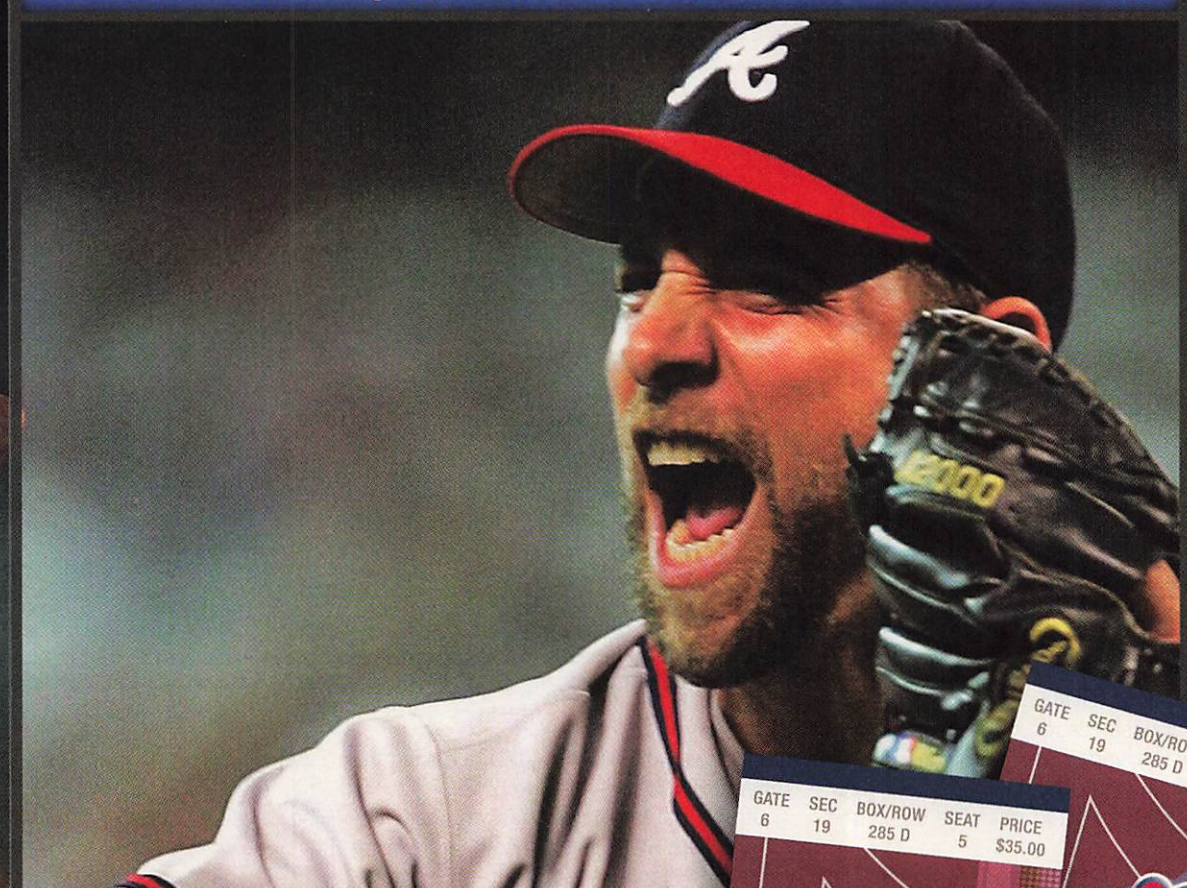
Hugh Duffy set the franchise RBI record (145) for the 1894 Boston Beaneaters. Gary Sheffield holds the Atlanta Braves' mark (132 in 2003).



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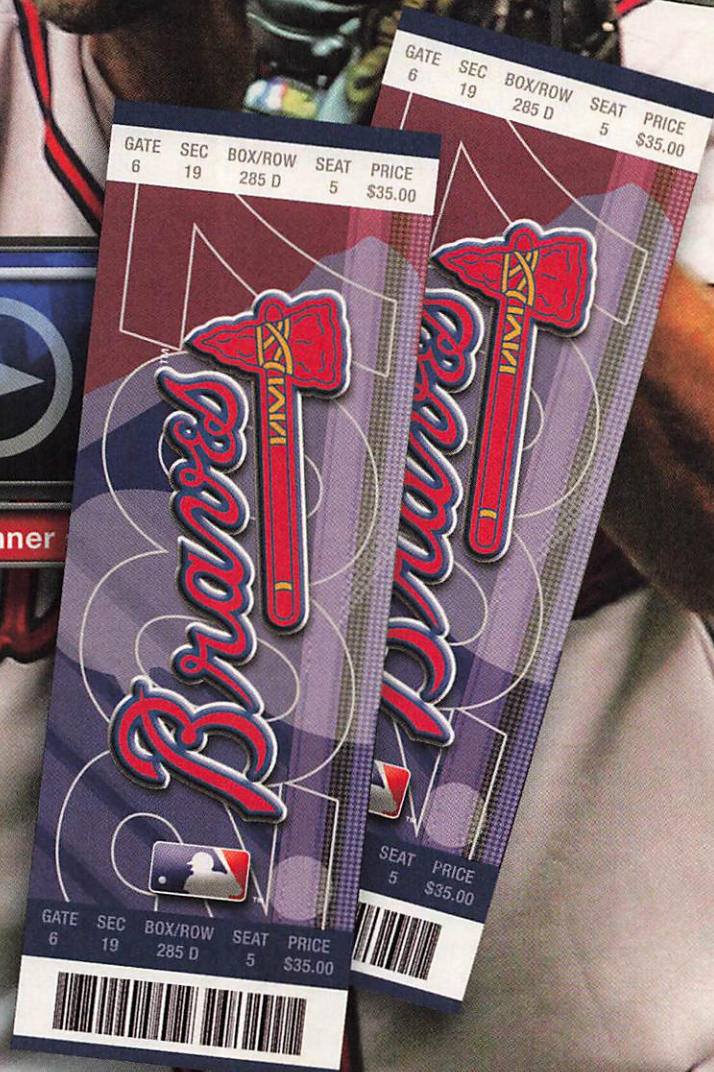


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Richmond pitching coach Guy Hansen, in his third stint with the Braves organization, chats with lefty Jo-Jo Reyes, one of the organization's top pitching prospects.

# GOOD VIBRATIONS

**Hansen Using Power of Positive Coaching  
To Fuel Richmond Surge, Prep Pitchers for Atlanta**

PHOTOS: BILL SETLIFF

BY CHRIS GIGLEY

**RICHMOND PITCHING COACH** Guy Hansen is a self-described Southern California beach boy, and he has shown a knack for taking the sunshine wherever he goes.

For 23 seasons, he and his bright outlook have worked exclusively in the Atlanta Braves and Kansas City organizations. Hansen is in his third stint covering seven seasons with the Braves as a scout and minor league coach. He spent 16 years as a scout, coach and instructor in the Royals' system - including six as a coach on the big league staff.

The one constant in his career has been John Schuerholz. Hansen was a 44th-round pick of the Royals in 1969 and played for four years in the organization's farm system. A year after Hansen retired, Schuerholz hooked him up with the Major League scouting bureau, then five years later (1981) hired him as an area scout with the Royals.

"John has been the biggest sponsor in my coaching career," said Hansen. "I've always loved working for him, because he's extremely smart and lets you do your job."

Schuerholz called Hansen personally to offer him the pitching coach position this season at Triple-A Richmond, where he filled the same role from 2001-2004. This time it looks like he's staying. He and his family have a home in the Richmond area, and he insists he is perfectly happy coaching at the minor league level.

"I don't care about coaching in the big leagues unless it helps this organization continue to win," said Hansen, who served as the big league pitching coach in Kansas City from 1992-1993 and again in 2005, as well as bullpen coach in 1996-97. "Right now, I'm commit-



ted to helping these kids make it to the big leagues."

"Kids" is a relative term in Richmond, where the Braves had the best record (20-7) in the International League, forged with the best staff ERA (2.37).

Hansen is working with a staff that includes 32-year-old Jonathan Johnson, 29-year-old Buddy Carlyle and 28-year-old Buddy Hernandez. But Hansen says he sees potential in them just like he sees promise in top-line prospect Anthony Lerew. The 24-year-old righthander who showed great promise in 2005 when he debuted in Atlanta had a disastrous 2006 but is back on the beam this year working with Hansen (1.37 ERA in his first five starts).

"I had the pleasure of working with David Cone (1994 AL Cy Young Award winner as a Royal) when I was in Kansas City, and I see a lot of him in Lerew," said Hansen, who as a scout with Kansas City was credited with signing the likes of Bret Saberhagen, Kevin Appier, Cecil Fielder and Jeff Conine. "[Lerew] has the chance to be a star in the big leagues. I don't think it. I know it."

That's why Hansen's players love him. He is such a tremendous booster for his pitchers that they can't help gaining confidence when they're around him.

"Our staff feeds off that stuff," said Richmond righthander Kevin Barry (promoted to Atlanta May 2), who had Hansen as a pitching coach in 2004. "It doesn't matter if you give up 10 runs, he's going to find something positive about your performance. I think that's a big deal in a game that can be so mentally tough."

Lefthander Macay McBride certainly agrees with that. He was optioned to Richmond in April to work on his command after his



mechanics unraveled in Atlanta.

"It's important to feel like you're making progress every time you're trying to fix something, or else you'll just get disgusted," said McBride, who had an 0.96 ERA in his first four Richmond outings (two starts). "Every time I work with Guy, I feel like I'm getting somewhere. And when we're done, he makes me feel like I'm the best pitcher in the world."

That's because Hansen often tells him so.

"I think Macay is going to be a great starter in the big leagues," said Hansen. "And I'm not talking with the Royals or any other team. There's no reason he can't be a rock in the middle of that rotation in Atlanta."

Those are pretty strong words given that Bobby Cox has used McBride exclusively out of the bullpen, but that's how Hansen is. He believes in his pitchers, defends them to the end, and isn't afraid to say so.

"Guy isn't always politically correct with his comments, but who cares if he's defending his pitchers?" said Richmond manager Dave Brundage. "That's what I like about him. He isn't afraid of anything."

That extends to his coaching techniques. Brundage says he likes that Hansen is willing to try unorthodox methods to get a point across.

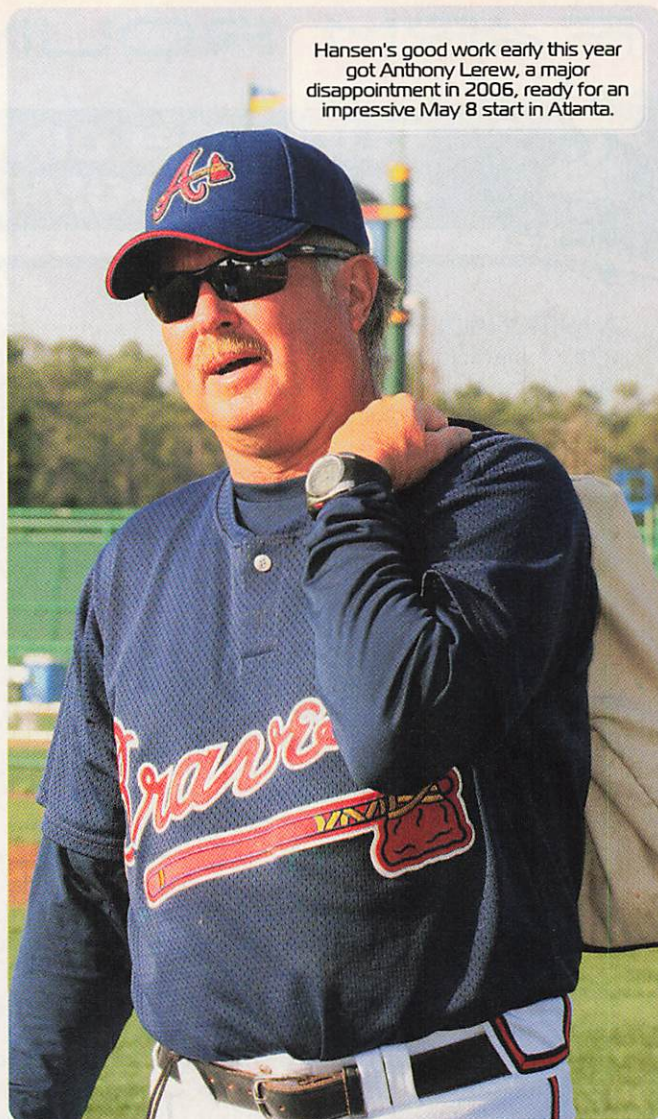
"If you're having trouble understanding something, he might explain it in golf terms or from a Wall Street perspective," said Barry. "Just don't take any stock tips from him."

Apparently, his pitching advice is much better. After just a week with Hansen, McBride said he felt "like I made a lot of progress." Meanwhile, the Richmond pitching staff started the season fast, pacing Richmond's run to the top of the International League Southern Division.

Hansen's positive reinforcement has also had a lot to do with that, and he says the talent on the Richmond pitching staff justifies its strong performance. Furthermore, he says Schuerholz doesn't need to look outside the organization should Bobby Cox need pitching help.

"Going anywhere else for their pitching needs would be an absolute insult to me," said Hansen. "We have plenty of big league talent right here."

Hansen's good work early this year got Anthony Lerew, a major disappointment in 2006, ready for an impressive May 8 start in Atlanta.







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## SLICK-FIELDING JORDAN SCHAFER EARNS PROMOTION WITH HIS BAT

A NATIONAL LEAGUE SCOUT came away impressed with centerfielder Jordan Schafer last year during Instructional League. "He's one of the best defensive players I've seen out there in a long time," said the scout. "I just don't know if he's ever going to hit enough, though."

The assessment was understandable. After all, Schafer batted just .240 last year at Class A Rome, although the lead-off hitter did manage to stroke eight home runs and drive in 60 runs. With Schafer the first to admit his performance was lacking, the outfielder dedicated every day this past off-season to becoming a better hitter.

"I knew that hitting was my weak point and the reason I was probably going back to Rome," said Schafer, the Braves' third-round draft pick in 2005. "I knew I was capable of hitting. I just needed to work hard in order to improve my consistency."

Schafer did return to Rome to open the 2007 season. He began the season by going 0-for-4 on Opening Day before hitting safely in 26 of his next 29 games. By the time he was promoted to Class-A Myrtle Beach on May 7, Schafer led the minor leagues with 48 hits, 22 extra-base hits and 15 doubles.

"He came back bigger and stronger and with great intensity focus," said Rome manager Randy Ingle, who also managed Schafer in 2006. "His body showed some maturity and he made the most of his opportunities. He works very hard and really started to put everything together while he was here."

After hitting five home runs and batting .372 in the South Atlantic League, including a .412 average against right-handed pitchers, Schafer has made a smooth transition with the Pelicans. He not only hit safely in his first seven games in the Carolina League, he has made several highlight-reel catches while covering center field from gap to gap.

Schafer also accomplished the rare feat of stealing three



Schafer, 20, led all of minor league baseball with 48 hits when he was promoted from Rome to Myrtle Beach.

bases following a single trip to the plate. He led off the first inning against Frederick on May 11 with a walk and stole second and third base with Elvis Andrus at bat. Andrus then walked and executed a double steal with Schafer, who stole home and scored standing up.

"I know this is my job and I'm working hard to be better every time I go out on the field," Schafer said. "There's nothing I love more than coming to the ballpark every day. If I can maintain my consistency, I know there's a good chance I'll be able to continue to come out here and maybe one day play for the Braves in Atlanta."



### RICHMOND TRIPLE A

**SPEED, PITCHING** and defense have carried the R-Braves to their best start in franchise history. Richmond led the International League's South Division by 9 1/2 games with a 24-9 record through May 13. The team led the entire IL with a 2.83 ERA and six shutouts while allowing a league-low 15 home runs...

The Braves signed **Rheal Cormier** after the Reds released the 40-year-old lefty on May 10. Cormier, who allowed three runs

and four hits in three innings this season with Cincinnati, has been an effective lefty reliever in the major leagues for the past eight seasons. He reported to Richmond on May 14 and could be a candidate for the Atlanta bullpen in the near future...

The Braves are encouraged with the progress **Macay McBride** is making since his demotion to Richmond. McBride issued seven walks in his first 18 innings, with three coming in a 3 1/3-inning stint on April 28 versus Norfolk. He has worked extensively with R-Braves pitching coach **Guy Hansen**, who is trying to improve the lefty's command by eliminating his tendency to

throw across his body. The Braves are having McBride pitch in the Richmond rotation in order to give him more opportunities to break the habit...

**Anthony Lerew**, who led the IL with a 1.37 ERA, looked like the highly touted prospect of 2005 instead of the out-of-sync pitcher of 2006 prior to his promotion to Atlanta on May 8. Several IL managers were adamant that Lerew's sinking fastball was the nastiest pitch seen in the league this year...

**Graham Koonce** did what he does best with a little flair on May 12. Obtained from Kansas City on May 9 in exchange for a player to be named later, Koonce drove to





MATT ESQUIVEL

Richmond from Omaha, Neb., and proceeded to hit a two-run homer over the left-field wall at The Diamond in his first at-bat with his new team. Koonce had four home runs with Omaha this year and entered the season with 184 minor-league homers since 1994...

**Buddy Carlyle** extended his scoreless streak to 23  $2\frac{2}{3}$  innings by limiting Durham to two hits over 5  $2\frac{2}{3}$  innings on May 12. The 29-year-old Carlyle was named the IL Pitcher of the Week for the first week of May after going 2-0 with 13 shutout innings. In his last four starts through May 13, he was 4-0 with 32 strikeouts and a 0.00 ERA, and owned a share of the IL lead in wins with a 5-1 record...

**Gregor Blanco** hit his first home run in two years and the first grand slam of his career when he victimized the Norfolk Tides on April 29. Blanco has been working with Richmond hitting coach **Leon Roberts** on driving inside pitches and bunting for base hits. He had four bunts for hits in 2006 and already owns five this season. Roberts' goal for Blanco is to drop down 18 bunts for hits this season...

**Yunel Escobar** continues to build on his impressive showing from spring training. The versatile infielder who has played shortstop throughout the season thus far owned a seven-game hitting streak through May 13, going 13-for-29 with six RBIs during the stretch...

Pitcher **Blaine Boyer** was activated on May 7 after being on the disabled list since the end of spring training with an oblique injury...

**Bill McCarthy** admits his ankle is healthier than it has been in several years. McCarthy underwent surgery on the ankle prior to the 2006 season and says he focused on the pain throughout much of last year...

MISSISSIPPI  
DOUBLE A

**NOT UNLIKE RICHMOND**, the M-Braves were in first place in the Southern League's South Division by leading the league with a team ERA of 2.88. Mississippi also has more power this year. The team hit 13 home runs in its first 13 games at Trustmark Park after hitting just 24 homers for the entire 2006 home schedule...

Outfielders **Matt Esquivel** and **Brandon Jones** have provided much of the pop in Mississippi. Through May 12, Esquivel led the league with nine homers, 28 RBIs and 28 runs, while Jones was second with eight homers, 18 extra-base hits and 41 hits...

## MY JOB IS DRIVING IN RUNS, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES

**YOU NEVER KNOW** which way a season is going to go, but so far 2007 has gone pretty close to the way I hoped it would unfold this winter. The team here in Mississippi is winning, and I've been able to contribute by putting up some solid power numbers and playing steady defense in the outfield. The numbers have been good so far, but I realize there is still a long way to go.

The big thing right now is I'm trying to remain consistent by putting the ball in play and cutting down on my strikeouts. I've always figured that if I can put the ball in play somehow, things will work out for the best. A large part of it centers on my approach. Early in my career, I worried about not failing in critical situations. Now I focus on getting the job done when I have my opportunities. It's basically putting everything I practice and work on every day to use.

I love stepping to the plate with the game on the line. My job is to bring in the runs, regardless of what it takes. Sometimes that involves sacrificing myself to send home the runner. Other times it requires a hard-hit ball to a certain part of the field. Given a choice, I'd much rather be up there in the spotlight with the outcome in the balance. That's what makes all the hard work worthwhile and the game so much fun.

Last year was not a lot of fun for me. I went home to Texas at mid-season after playing the first three months in Mississippi. When the season was over, I sat down and tried to focus on what I needed to do to turn this whole thing around. I wanted to leave a positive

image on myself as well as on everybody that watches me play. The big moment came when (farm director) Kurt Kemp called in October and told me the Braves wanted me in the organization. When he said that, a brand new passion swept over me. I wanted him to understand where I was coming from, and he did. So after enduring one of the hardest things I've had to face in my career, it's actually worked out extremely well.

I think one big reason things have gone so well this year centers on the positive atmosphere here in Mississippi. I've never been more pumped heading into a season than when I learned over the winter that Phillip Wellman was going to be our manager. We live very close to one another in Texas, and he's worked with me for a long time. Knowing Phillip so well gives me a lot of freedom in some respects, but he also stays on my butt, making sure I'm always doing the right thing. He gives tough criticism sometimes, but that's his job. I know he wants me to be a better ballplayer, so I try to be a sponge and soak up all of his direction and advice. For me, I couldn't imagine being in a better spot.

My goal right now is simply to do well, no matter where I'm playing. I've had some tough times here and there, but to make the most out of every opportunity is what this game is all about. Knowing that I'm going to be in every game is the reward for all the hard work I put in for several hours every day leading up to the first pitch. No matter who we're playing, I want to make sure that I bring my "A" game to the field. The way I look at it is, every day is a step toward the big leagues, and I plan to make the most of the chance the Atlanta Braves have given me.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Matt Esquivel is a 24-year-old outfielder for the Double-A Mississippi Braves. The native of San Antonio, Tex., signed as a free agent with the Braves in 2001. At press time, he was hitting .261 and leading the Southern League with 9 home runs (tied) and 32 RBIs.

GIVEN A CHOICE, I'D MUCH RATHER BE UP THERE IN THE SPOTLIGHT WITH THE OUTCOME IN THE BALANCE.



**Matt Harrison** continues to draw favorable comparisons to **Tom Glavine**. Harrison displays as good a feel for pitching as anyone in the organization. Ten of the first 15 earned runs he allowed this season came in two starts. Otherwise, he dissected Southern League batters and limited opponents to one earned run or less in five of his first eight starts while winning four of his initial five decisions...

**Van Pope** has struggled to find his consistency at the plate while playing in his hometown. After batting just .176 in April, the third baseman opened May with only four hits in his first 35 at-bats. He was hitting just .128 against right-handed pitchers...

**Carl Loadenthal** extended his hitting streak to 18 games on May 13. Loadenthal, who led all Atlanta minor leaguers last year with a .305 batting average, tied **Scott Thorman**'s record from 2005 for the longest in Mississippi franchise history. Loadenthal also paced the SL with 11 steals through May 12...

**J.C. Holt** returned to the M-Braves' lineup on May 10 after being sidelined with a pulled hamstring since April 13. The second baseman showed no sign of rust by stroking seven hits in his first 15 at-bats. He had 20 hits in his initial 48 trips to the plate this season and hit safely in 11 of his first 12 games...

The return to the pitching mechanics and delivery he used at North Carolina State has **Joey Devine** throwing the ball effectively once again. Devine led the SL with 10 saves through May 12 and says his back feels better than it did at any time in the past 18 months.



## MYRTLE BEACH ADVANCED A

**NEEDS AT HIGHER** levels have hurt the Pelicans more than any other team in the organization thus far. Myrtle Beach lost several early-season contributors to Mississippi, which led to the team playing at the .500 level through mid-May. The situation improved on May 12 when second baseman **Diory Hernandez** returned to the Carolina League after hitting .322 with three homers and 16 RBIs against Southern League pitching while filling in for the injured Holt...

**Jake Stevens** has regained his prospect status by displaying a new attitude that includes some impressive resiliency to get off to a 3-2 start...

**Moises Hernandez** admits he was nervous during the first few innings while pitching for the first time in the United States in front of his wife, **Vanessa**, and two-year-old daughter, **Valerie**, on May 9. Hernandez, the older brother of Seattle pitcher **Felix Hernandez**, allowed one run and five hits over 6 2/3 innings to improve to 4-1. The righthander allowed only 12 earned runs in his first seven starts, covering 41 2/3 innings. In four starts from April 23-May 9, he pitched into the seventh inning every time without allowing more than two runs...

Righthander **Jose Santiago** had surgery to repair a torn labrum in his right shoulder in early May and is expected to miss the remainder of the season...

**Isaiah Ka'aihue** has rebounded from a

## TOP 11 PROSPECTS BY POSITION

- C** Clint Sammons (age 24) Mississippi - Baserunners have little chance against the best defensive catcher in the Atlanta farm system.
- 1B** Isaiah Ka'aihue (22) Myrtle Beach - Driving the ball again after ailing for much of April.
- 2B** Martin Prado (23) Richmond - Magic bat continues to produce after strong spring with the big club.
- 3B** Eric Campbell (21) Myrtle Beach - Will be back on the field soon after missing more than a month with a thumb and hand injury.
- SS** Yunel Escobar (24) Richmond - More mature and more comfortable; starts on the rise at the plate and in the field.
- LF** Brandon Jones (23) Mississippi - Putting together the early makings of a breakout season.
- CF** Jordan Schafer (20) Myrtle Beach - Incredible defender has made some impressive adjustments at the plate.
- RF** Matt Esquivel (24) Mississippi - Excellent all-around athlete has been at his slugging best thus far.
- RHP** Thomas Hanson (20) Rome - Intimidating size (6-6) and the ability to throw strikes.
- LHP** Matt Harrison (21) Mississippi - Combines great ability and impeccable idea of what he needs to do to record outs.
- RP** Joey Devine (23) Mississippi - Going back to basic mechanics has him back in Atlanta's plans as potential closer.

tough April that saw him hit .167 and miss more than a week with a stiff back. The first baseman batted at a .341 clip with three homers and 10 RBIs in his first 12 games of May...

The Pelicans have been without outfielder **Matt Young** and third baseman **Eric Campbell** since mid-April after the two players suffered similar thumb injuries two days apart...

The Pelicans will host the 2008 All-Star Game between the Carolina and California leagues on June 24...



ROME

CLASS A

**THE BRAVES** have the youngest team in the South Atlantic League once again this year. As a result, Rome won just 10 times in its first 36 games. Even though no pitcher had more than one win through mid-May, the club's 3.55 ERA, good for fifth in the league, revealed pitching was not the problem. Instead, the Braves are hitting in the .230 range, near the bottom of the 16-team league...

**Thomas Hanson** paced the SAL with 49 strikeouts and had pitched much better than his 1-2 record would indicate. After surrendering five earned runs in his first start of the season, the righthander allowed only four earned runs in his next six outings, a span of 32 innings...

The same scenario held true for **Jamie Richmond**, who was the Appalachian League Pitcher of the Year last season. Richmond owned a 7.50 ERA after his second start this year but had lowered it to 2.97 after allowing no earned runs over his last two starts and 12 innings through May 13...

Walks continue to limit **Jeffrey Lyman**'s effectiveness. He struck out 36 batters in his first 37 2/3 innings, yet issued 14 walks, an average of more than 3.3 per game...

Opponents had stolen 59 bases against Rome, the third-highest total in the league. Many of those came against the pitchers. Catcher **Phillip Britton** has looked strong behind the plate and was tied for third in the league by throwing out 14 runners...

Despite the team's difficult early-season run and some less-than-ideal spring weather, the Braves continue to draw well, averaging more than 3,400 fans through their first 20 games. Rome will also host the 2007 SAL All-Star Game at State Mutual Stadium on June 19.



# FARM STATISTICS


**RICHMOND**
**24-10**

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE TRIPLE A | THE DIAMOND (804) 359-4444

| BATTER                     | AVG  | G  | AB  | R  | H  | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|----------------------------|------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
| Blanco, Gregor (OF)        | .321 | 33 | 112 | 23 | 36 | 3  | 0  | 2  | 10  | 24 | 20 |    |
| Bohn, T.J. (OF)            | .222 | 34 | 108 | 14 | 24 | 5  | 0  | 1  | 10  | 16 | 34 |    |
| Canizares, Barbaro (1B)    | .304 | 20 | 56  | 8  | 17 | 4  | 0  | 1  | 14  | 8  | 12 |    |
| Clark, Doug (OF)           | .186 | 30 | 102 | 12 | 19 | 5  | 0  | 0  | 14  | 12 | 24 |    |
| Escobar, Yunel (SS)        | .331 | 32 | 130 | 14 | 43 | 6  | 1  | 2  | 20  | 7  | 17 |    |
| Franco, Iker (C)           | .217 | 15 | 46  | 5  | 10 | 2  | 0  | 0  | 3   | 4  | 14 |    |
| Harris, Willie (INF/OF)    | .362 | 17 | 58  | 17 | 21 | 7  | 2  | 1  | 7   | 8  | 6  |    |
| Koonce, Graham (1B)        | .273 | 3  | 11  | 3  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 4   | 1  | 4  |    |
| McCarthy, Bill (OF)        | .220 | 28 | 100 | 13 | 22 | 5  | 1  | 4  | 15  | 6  | 31 |    |
| Mendez, Carlos (1B)        | .296 | 24 | 81  | 9  | 24 | 5  | 0  | 4  | 12  | 3  | 14 |    |
| Miller, Corky (C)          | .224 | 23 | 67  | 3  | 15 | 3  | 0  | 1  | 7   | 12 | 9  |    |
| Prado, Martin (2B)         | .288 | 34 | 125 | 19 | 36 | 7  | 2  | 0  | 12  | 15 | 17 |    |
| Schuerholz, Jonathan (INF) | .250 | 9  | 20  | 2  | 5  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 3   | 4  | 2  |    |
| Timmons, Wes (3B/1B)       | .205 | 28 | 83  | 10 | 17 | 2  | 0  | 2  | 8   | 4  | 6  |    |

| PITCHER           | W-L | ERA   | G  | GS | SV | IP   | H  | R  | ER | BB | SO | OBA  |
|-------------------|-----|-------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Acosta, Manny     | 3-1 | .86   | 14 | 0  | 4  | 21.0 | 14 | 3  | 2  | 11 | 21 | .200 |
| Barry, Kevin      | 1-0 | 3.12  | 4  | 3  | 0  | 17.1 | 13 | 7  | 6  | 7  | 12 | .210 |
| Basner, Ryan      | 1-0 | 2.79  | 3  | 1  | 0  | 9.2  | 11 | 5  | 3  | 1  | 8  | .324 |
| Bennett, Jeff     | 0-1 | 6.75  | 8  | 0  | 1  | 10.2 | 16 | 8  | 8  | 5  | 8  | .356 |
| Boyer, Blaine     | 0-0 | .00   | 3  | 0  | 0  | 6.0  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 5  | 4  | .059 |
| Bush, Paul        | 1-0 | 1.74  | 5  | 0  | 1  | 10.1 | 5  | 2  | 2  | 5  | 10 | .147 |
| Carlyle, Buddy    | 5-1 | 2.37  | 7  | 7  | 0  | 38.0 | 28 | 11 | 10 | 7  | 46 | .203 |
| Hernandez, Buddy  | 5-0 | 1.23  | 13 | 0  | 2  | 22.0 | 15 | 3  | 3  | 6  | 13 | .200 |
| Hodges, Trey      | 1-2 | 2.48  | 7  | 6  | 0  | 29.0 | 18 | 8  | 8  | 19 | 16 | .189 |
| Johnson, Jonathan | 1-1 | 5.10  | 7  | 6  | 0  | 30.0 | 31 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 18 | .279 |
| Lerew, Anthony    | 1-0 | 1.37  | 5  | 5  | 0  | 26.1 | 20 | 5  | 4  | 8  | 15 | .211 |
| McBride, Macay    | 1-2 | 3.13  | 7  | 5  | 0  | 23.0 | 26 | 10 | 8  | 7  | 24 | .274 |
| Scalamandre, Rich | 0-2 | 12.15 | 5  | 0  | 0  | 6.2  | 15 | 12 | 9  | 4  | 4  | .441 |
| Startup, Will     | 0-0 | 3.68  | 14 | 0  | 1  | 14.2 | 14 | 6  | 6  | 7  | 13 | .246 |
| Stockman, Phil    | 1-0 | .00   | 4  | 0  | 0  | 7.1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 2  | 6  | .043 |
| Winkelsas, Joe    | 1-0 | 3.97  | 5  | 0  | 0  | 11.1 | 10 | 6  | 5  | 5  | 7  | .250 |


**MISSISSIPPI**
**26-12**

SOUTHERN LEAGUE AA | TRUSTMARK PARK (601) 664-7600

| BATTER                     | AVG  | G  | AB  | R  | H  | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|----------------------------|------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
| Burruss, Josh (OF)         | .183 | 26 | 71  | 6  | 13 | 0  | 0  | 3  | 11  | 9  | 26 | 1  |
| Creek, Greg (1B)           | .297 | 34 | 118 | 17 | 35 | 10 | 0  | 1  | 12  | 15 | 27 | 1  |
| Esquivel, Matt (OF)        | .259 | 38 | 139 | 30 | 36 | 6  | 1  | 10 | 33  | 20 | 32 | 6  |
| Hernandez, Diory (2B)      | .322 | 25 | 90  | 10 | 29 | 6  | 1  | 3  | 16  | 7  | 18 | 6  |
| Holt, J.C. (2B)            | .389 | 13 | 54  | 9  | 21 | 3  | 0  | 0  | 1   | 3  | 13 | 5  |
| Jones, Brandon (OF)        | .278 | 37 | 151 | 24 | 42 | 7  | 3  | 8  | 27  | 12 | 36 | 6  |
| Jurich, Mark (1B/OF)       | .257 | 23 | 70  | 7  | 18 | 8  | 0  | 1  | 18  | 5  | 14 | 1  |
| Lillibridge, Brent (SS)    | .259 | 36 | 135 | 19 | 35 | 8  | 1  | 2  | 9   | 17 | 45 | 8  |
| Loadenthal, Carl (OF)      | .297 | 33 | 118 | 15 | 35 | 2  | 0  | 0  | 7   | 12 | 15 | 12 |
| Lunar, Fernando (C)        | .111 | 6  | 18  | 1  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 1  | 7  | 0  |
| Pope, Van (3B)             | .160 | 34 | 125 | 14 | 20 | 4  | 4  | 1  | 13  | 7  | 24 | 4  |
| Rozema, Mike (INF)         | .167 | 6  | 18  | 4  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 6  | 4  | 3  |
| Saltalamacchia, Jarrod (C) | .309 | 22 | 81  | 18 | 25 | 7  | 0  | 6  | 13  | 13 | 17 | 2  |
| Sammons, Clint (C)         | .194 | 8  | 31  | 1  | 6  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   | 1  | 8  | 0  |
| Schuerholz, Jonathan (INF) | .182 | 12 | 22  | 2  | 4  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 2  | 9  | 1  |
| Serrano, Ray (C)           | .100 | 5  | 20  | 4  | 2  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   | 1  | 4  | 2  |

| PITCHER           | W-L | ERA  | G  | GS | SV | IP   | H  | R  | ER | BB | SO | OBA  |
|-------------------|-----|------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Ascanio, Jose     | 2-0 | 3.16 | 13 | 1  | 1  | 31.1 | 23 | 12 | 11 | 9  | 20 | .215 |
| Basner, Ryan      | 0-0 | .00  | 7  | 0  | 0  | 12.0 | 6  | 1  | 0  | 4  | 9  | .143 |
| Bennett, Jeff     | 0-0 | 4.15 | 6  | 0  | 0  | 8.2  | 7  | 4  | 4  | 6  | 7  | .212 |
| Bueno, Francisley | 1-2 | 4.13 | 6  | 6  | 0  | 24.0 | 30 | 12 | 11 | 8  | 19 | .309 |
| Devine, Joey      | 1-2 | 1.86 | 17 | 0  | 10 | 19.1 | 12 | 5  | 4  | 8  | 24 | .185 |
| Harrison, Matt    | 4-1 | 3.02 | 8  | 8  | 0  | 44.2 | 39 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 30 | .241 |
| Morton, Charlie   | 2-1 | 3.92 | 14 | 0  | 0  | 20.2 | 21 | 10 | 9  | 12 | 17 | .269 |
| Nelson, Brad      | 1-0 | 3.27 | 4  | 0  | 0  | 11.0 | 9  | 4  | 4  | 2  | 4  | .220 |
| Nix, Michael      | 1-1 | 2.51 | 10 | 0  | 0  | 14.1 | 9  | 8  | 4  | 7  | 19 | .176 |
| Reyes, Jo-Jo      | 4-1 | 3.45 | 8  | 8  | 0  | 44.1 | 33 | 18 | 17 | 19 | 36 | .213 |
| Schreiber, Zach   | 3-0 | .50  | 15 | 0  | 3  | 18.0 | 10 | 2  | 1  | 10 | 15 | .175 |
| Smith, Dan        | 3-2 | 2.33 | 7  | 7  | 0  | 38.2 | 28 | 13 | 10 | 15 | 32 | .206 |
| Villa, Kelvin     | 3-2 | 4.96 | 7  | 7  | 0  | 32.2 | 39 | 19 | 18 | 20 | 28 | .300 |
| Winkelsas, Joe    | 0-0 | .00  | 8  | 0  | 0  | 16.2 | 9  | 1  | 0  | 5  | 17 | .158 |


**MYRTLE BEACH**
**17-20**

CAROLINA LEAGUE ADVANCED A | COASTAL FEDERAL FIELD (843) 918-6002

| BATTER                | AVG  | G  | AB  | R  | H  | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|-----------------------|------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
| Alvarez, Roberto (OF) | .247 | 21 | 77  | 9  | 19 | 5  | 1  | 0  | 5   | 7  | 15 | 2  |
| Andrus, Elvis (SS)    | .246 | 35 | 138 | 17 | 34 | 8  | 2  | 1  | 9   | 13 | 31 | 7  |
| Arnold, Derrick (INF) | .233 | 27 | 86  | 10 | 20 | 4  | 0  | 1  | 7   | 1  | 13 | 1  |
| Bennett, Paul (INF)   | .290 | 22 | 62  | 9  | 18 | 3  | 1  | 1  | 9   | 16 | 22 | 5  |
| Cabrera, Willie (OF)  | .224 | 24 | 85  | 8  | 19 | 0  | 0  | 1  | 6   | 6  | 7  | 2  |
| Camarena, Jose (C)    | .238 | 20 | 63  | 5  | 15 | 5  | 0  | 1  | 6   | 7  | 18 | 1  |
| Campbell, Eric (3B)   | .179 | 8  | 28  | 6  | 5  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 2   | 4  | 1  | 1  |
| Davis, Quentin (OF)   | .259 | 37 | 139 | 18 | 36 | 2  | 4  | 1  | 15  | 7  | 24 | 19 |
| Hernandez, Diory (2B) | .295 | 12 | 44  | 8  | 13 | 5  | 1  | 0  | 6   | 2  | 6  | 1  |
| Kaahualu, Kala (1B)   | .245 | 30 | 102 | 14 | 25 | 7  | 0  | 6  | 20  | 15 | 35 | 0  |
| Marciel, Robert (2B)  | .237 | 14 | 38  | 4  | 9  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 4   | 4  | 4  | 1  |
| Roberts, J.D. (OF)    | .182 | 28 | 99  | 4  | 18 | 6  | 0  | 1  | 10  | 5  | 30 | 1  |
| Rozema, Mike (INF)    | .294 | 20 | 68  | 10 | 20 | 1  | 1  | 2  | 15  | 9  | 13 | 1  |
| Sammons, Clint (C)    | .269 | 23 | 78  | 13 | 21 | 6  | 0  | 4  | 13  | 10 | 14 | 1  |
| Schafer, Jordan (OF)  | .294 | 8  | 34  | 7  | 10 | 1  | 1  | 1  | 3   | 2  | 9  | 5  |
| Young, Matt (OF)      | .175 | 11 | 40  | 3  | 7  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   | 8  | 6  | 3  |

| PITCHER            | W-L | ERA   | G  | GS | SV | IP   | H  | R  | ER | BB | SO | OBA  |
|--------------------|-----|-------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Acosta, Jorge      | 1-0 | 6.23  | 9  | 0  | 0  | 13.0 | 9  | 9  | 9  | 9  | 8  | .205 |
| Bullock, Tyler     | 0-1 | 6.60  | 13 | 0  | 1  | 15.0 | 19 | 13 | 11 | 9  | 12 | .306 |
| Cuevas, Jairo      | 0-5 | 4.33  | 7  | 7  | 0  | 35.1 | 30 | 23 | 17 | 13 | 32 | .222 |
| Evans, Dustin      | 1-2 | 6.09  | 7  | 7  | 0  | 34.0 | 41 | 24 | 23 | 14 | 25 | .306 |
| Gunderson, Kevin   | 1-1 | 5.28  | 13 | 0  | 4  | 15.1 | 16 | 12 | 9  | 11 | 8  | .271 |
| Hernandez, Moises  | 5-2 | 3.02  | 8  | 8  | 0  | 47.2 | 54 | 21 | 16 | 13 | 27 | .280 |
| Nelson, Brad       | 3-0 | .00   | 9  | 0  | 1  | 13.2 | 10 | 0  | 0  | 3  | 8  | .208 |
| Parr, James        | 2-4 | 4.11  | 7  | 7  | 0  | 30.2 | 33 | 14 | 14 | 6  | 25 | .289 |
| Payano, Nelson     | 0-0 | 2.37  | 12 | 1  | 0  | 19.0 | 11 | 7  | 5  | 22 | 26 | .169 |
| Santiago, Jose     | 0-1 | 12.60 | 5  | 0  | 0  | 5.0  | 6  | 10 | 7  | 9  | 10 | .286 |
| Stanley, Adam      | 1-1 | 3.75  | 11 | 0  | 1  | 24.0 | 18 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 15 | .207 |
| Stevens, Jake      | 3-2 | 3.51  | 6  | 6  | 0  | 33.1 | 30 | 18 | 13 | 11 | 16 | .250 |
| Valenzuela, Sergio | 0-0 | 3.48  | 7  | 0  | 0  | 10.1 | 13 | 8  | 4  | 3  | 4  | .289 |
| Venters, Jonathan  | 0-0 | 3.21  | 5  | 1  | 1  | 14.0 | 8  | 8  | 5  | 7  | 13 | .167 |


**ROME**
**10-27**

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE CLASS A | STATE MUTUAL STADIUM (706) 368-9388

| BATTER                     | AVG  | G  | AB  | R  | H  | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SO | SB |
|----------------------------|------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
| Brezeale, Danny (3B)       | .212 | 28 | 99  | 12 | 21 | 11 | 0  | 0  | 16  | 5  | 33 | 0  |
| Britton, Phillip (C)       | .241 | 23 | 87  | 14 | 21 | 5  | 1  | 0  | 7   | 3  | 12 | 1  |
| Cabrera, Willie (OF)       | .226 | 7  | 31  | 2  | 7  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 4  | 0  |
| Flowers, Tyler (1B)        | .167 | 9  | 36  | 6  | 6  | 4  | 0  | 0  | 3   | 2  | 9  | 0  |
| Fontaine, Chase (SS/2B)    | .248 | 34 | 125 | 18 | 31 | 6  | 0  | 1  | 7   | 14 | 36 | 6  |
| Lundahl, Chad (INF)        | .209 | 31 | 129 | 11 | 27 | 4  | 0  | 2  | 12  | 7  | 29 | 0  |
| Miles, Cole (2B)           | .245 | 16 | 53  | 6  | 13 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 2   | 5  | 10 | 4  |
| Monk, Brandon (INF)        | .148 | 15 | 54  | 2  | 8  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 4   | 2  | 14 | 0  |
| Morris, Joshua (1B)        | .161 | 31 | 112 | 10 | 18 | 8  | 0  | 1  | 10  | 10 | 32 | 0  |
| Owings, Jon (OF)           | .203 | 20 | 79  | 9  | 16 | 3  | 1  | 4  | 9   | 3  | 24 | 1  |
| Rodriguez, Concepcion (OF) | .205 | 32 | 117 | 13 | 24 | 8  | 0  | 4  | 16  | 15 | 27 | 0  |
| Schafer, Jordan (OF)       | .372 | 30 | 129 | 16 | 48 | 15 | 2  | 5  | 20  | 16 | 31 | 4  |
| Silva, Yohan (OF)          | .196 | 20 | 56  | 10 | 11 | 2  | 2  | 1  | 5   | 7  | 17 | 0  |
| Verastegui, Jerry (C)      | .243 | 11 | 37  | 3  | 9  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   | 4  | 6  | 0  |
| Williams, Larry (OF/1B)    | .260 | 34 | 146 | 6  | 38 | 6  | 1  | 0  | 9   | 9  | 23 | 0  |

| PITCHER             | W-L | ERA   | G  | GS | SV | IP   | H  | R  | ER | BB | SO | OBA  |
|---------------------|-----|-------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Acosta, Jorge       | 0-0 | 13.50 | 3  | 0  | 0  | 4.0  | 6  | 6  | 6  | 4  | 5  | .333 |
| Broadway, Michael   | 1-2 | 4.76  | 5  | 0  | 0  | 11.1 | 13 | 8  | 6  | 6  | 9  | .289 |
| Chapman, Jaye       | 0-1 | 7.04  | 4  | 0  | 0  | 7.2  | 11 | 6  | 6  | 2  | 5  | .344 |
| Coffield, Kyle      | 1-3 | 3.52  | 7  | 3  | 0  | 30.2 | 26 | 15 | 12 | 8  | 23 | .228 |
| Gustafson, Timothy  | 1-2 | 4.02  | 8  | 8  | 0  | 40.1 | 36 | 23 | 18 | 14 | 37 | .238 |
| Hanson, Thomas      | 1-2 | 2.25  | 7  | 6  | 0  | 36.0 | 24 | 12 | 9  | 10 | 49 | .189 |
| Heath, Deunte       | 1-2 | 2.08  | 7  | 4  | 0  | 30.1 | 31 | 10 | 7  | 7  | 18 | .267 |
| Johnson, Joseph     | 1-0 | .64   | 11 | 0  | 0  | 14.0 | 10 | 2  | 1  | 8  | 12 | .196 |
| Jones, Beau         | 0-0 | 1.66  | 8  | 0  | 2  | 21.2 | 15 | 4  | 4  | 5  | 19 | .195 |
| Lyman, Jeffrey      | 0-5 | 4.54  | 8  | 8  | 0  | 37.2 | 42 | 24 | 19 | 16 | 34 | .284 |
| Reynoso, Ryne       | 1-3 | 2.60  | 10 | 0  | 0  | 17.1 | 13 | 8  | 5  | 11 | 21 | .210 |
| Richmond, Jamie     | 1-3 | 2.97  | 7  | 7  | 0  | 33.1 | 31 | 19 | 11 | 7  | 31 | .231 |
| Sencion, Carlos     | 1-1 | 4.18  | 9  | 0  | 0  | 28.0 | 24 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 37 | .224 |
| Vazquezuela, Sergio | 0-1 | 7.27  | 4  | 0  | 0  | 8.2  | 14 | 7  | 7  | 3  | 9  | .389 |
| Wilson, Tyler       | 1-2 | 6.75  | 9  | 0  | 1  | 13.1 | 15 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 20 | .288 |



TENTATIVE; SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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## MAY/JUNE

TURNER FIELD AWAY

| SUNDAY                           | MONDAY                           | TUESDAY                                                                          | WEDNESDAY                             | THURSDAY                        | FRIDAY                         | SATURDAY                        |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 27 1:05 PM<br><b>PHI</b><br>TBS  | 28 2:05 PM<br><b>MIL</b><br>TBS  | 29 8:05 PM<br><b>MIL</b><br>FSN SOUTH                                            | 30 1:05 PM<br><b>MIL</b><br>TBS       | 31                              | 1 2:20 PM<br><b>CHI</b><br>TBS | 2 1:05 PM<br><b>CHI</b><br>SS   |
| 3 2:20 PM<br><b>CHI</b><br>TBS   | 4 7:05 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>SS    | 5 GAME 1<br>2:35 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>SS<br>GAME 2<br>7:35 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>SS | 6 1:05 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>FSN SOUTH  | 7 7:35 PM<br><b>CHI</b><br>SS   | 8 7:35 PM<br><b>CHI</b><br>TBS | 9 7:05 PM<br><b>CHI</b><br>SS   |
| 10 8:09 PM<br><b>CHI</b><br>ESPN | 11                               | 12 8:10 PM<br><b>MIN</b><br>SS                                                   | 13 8:10 PM<br><b>MIN</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 14 8:10 PM<br><b>MIN</b><br>TBS | 15 7:05 PM<br><b>CLE</b><br>SS | 16 3:55 PM<br><b>CLE</b><br>FOX |
| 17 1:05 PM<br><b>CLE</b><br>TBS  | 18 7:05 PM<br><b>BOS</b><br>ESPN | 19 7:35 PM<br><b>BOS</b><br>SS                                                   | 20 7:35 PM<br><b>BOS</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 21                              | 22 7:35 PM<br><b>DET</b><br>SS | 23 3:55 PM<br><b>DET</b><br>FOX |
| 24 1:05 PM<br><b>DET</b><br>TBS  | 25 7:05 PM<br><b>WSH</b><br>SS   | 26 7:35 PM<br><b>WSH</b><br>SS                                                   | 27 7:35 PM<br><b>WSH</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 28                              | 29 7:05 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>SS | 30 7:05 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>TBS |

## JULY

ALL-STAR GAME TURNER FIELD AWAY

| SUNDAY                          | MONDAY                         | TUESDAY                                                  | WEDNESDAY                            | THURSDAY                              | FRIDAY                                | SATURDAY                       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 1:05 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>TBS  | 2 10:10 PM<br><b>LAD</b><br>SS | 3 10:10 PM<br><b>LAD</b><br>TBS                          | 4 9:10 PM<br><b>LAD</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 5 10:10 PM<br><b>LAD</b><br>TBS       | 6 10:05 PM<br><b>SD</b><br>TBS        | 7 3:55 PM<br><b>SD</b><br>FOX  |
| 8 8:05 PM<br><b>SD</b><br>ESPN  | 9                              | 10<br>ALL-STAR GAME<br>CINCEINNATI 2008<br>SAN FRANCISCO | 11                                   | 12                                    | 13 7:35 PM<br><b>PIT</b><br>TBS       | 14 7:05 PM<br><b>PIT</b><br>SS |
| 15 1:05 PM<br><b>PIT</b><br>TBS | 16 7:05 PM<br><b>CIN</b><br>SS | 17 7:35 PM<br><b>CIN</b><br>SS                           | 18 1:05 PM<br><b>CIN</b><br>TBS      | 19 7:35 PM<br><b>STL</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 20 7:35 PM<br><b>STL</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 21 7:05 PM<br><b>STL</b><br>SS |
| 22 1:05 PM<br><b>STL</b><br>TBS | 23 10:15 PM<br><b>SF</b><br>SS | 24 10:15 PM<br><b>SF</b><br>TBS                          | 25 10:15 PM<br><b>SF</b><br>TBS      | 26 7:05 PM<br><b>SF</b><br>TBS        | 27 9:40 PM<br><b>AZ</b><br>TBS        | 28 3:55 PM<br><b>AZ</b><br>FOX |
| 29 4:40 PM<br><b>AZ</b><br>TBS  | 30                             | 31 7:35 PM<br><b>HOU</b><br>SS                           |                                      |                                       |                                       |                                |

## AUGUST

TURNER FIELD AWAY

| SUNDAY                          | MONDAY                         | TUESDAY                        | WEDNESDAY                             | THURSDAY                        | FRIDAY                          | SATURDAY                       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                 |                                |                                | 1 7:35 PM<br><b>HOU</b><br>FSN SOUTH  | 2 7:35 PM<br><b>HOU</b><br>TBS  | 3 7:35 PM<br><b>COL</b><br>TBS  | 4 3:55 PM<br><b>COL</b><br>FOX |
| 5 1:05 PM<br><b>COL</b><br>TBS  | 6                              | 7 7:10 PM<br><b>NYM</b><br>SS  | 8 7:10 PM<br><b>NYM</b><br>FSN SOUTH  | 9 12:10 PM<br><b>NYM</b><br>TBS | 10 7:05 PM<br><b>PHI</b><br>TBS | 11 7:05 PM<br><b>PHI</b><br>SS |
| 12 1:35 PM<br><b>PHI</b><br>TBS | 13                             | 14 7:35 PM<br><b>SF</b><br>SS  | 15 7:35 PM<br><b>SF</b><br>FSN SOUTH  | 16 7:35 PM<br><b>SF</b><br>TBS  | 17 7:35 PM<br><b>AZ</b><br>SS   | 18 7:05 PM<br><b>AZ</b><br>SS  |
| 19 1:05 PM<br><b>AZ</b><br>TBS  | 20 7:10 PM<br><b>CIN</b><br>SS | 21 7:10 PM<br><b>CIN</b><br>SS | 22 7:10 PM<br><b>CIN</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 23 7:10 PM<br><b>CIN</b><br>SS  | 24 8:10 PM<br><b>STL</b><br>SS  | 25 7:15 PM<br><b>STL</b><br>SS |
| 26 2:15 PM<br><b>STL</b><br>TBS | 27 7:05 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>SS | 28 7:05 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>SS | 29 7:05 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 30                              | 31 7:35 PM<br><b>NYM</b><br>SS  |                                |



# SEPTEMBER

TURNER FIELD

AWAY

| SUNDAY                          | MONDAY                         | TUESDAY                        | WEDNESDAY                             | THURSDAY                       | FRIDAY                               | SATURDAY                        |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                 |                                |                                |                                       |                                |                                      | 1 3:55 PM<br><b>NYM</b><br>FOX  |
| 2 1:05 PM<br><b>NYM</b><br>TBS  | 3 1:05 PM<br><b>PHI</b><br>TBS | 4 7:35 PM<br><b>PHI</b><br>SS  | 5 1:05 PM<br><b>PHI</b><br>TBS        | 6                              | 7 7:35 PM<br><b>WSH</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 8 7:05 PM<br><b>WSH</b><br>TBS  |
| 9 1:05 PM<br><b>WSH</b><br>TBS  | 10 7:10 PM<br><b>NYM</b><br>SS | 11 7:10 PM<br><b>NYM</b><br>SS | 12 7:10 PM<br><b>NYM</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 13                             | 14 7:05 PM<br><b>WSH</b><br>SS       | 15 7:05 PM<br><b>WSH</b><br>TBS |
| 16 1:35 PM<br><b>WSH</b><br>TBS | 17 7:05 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>SS | 18 7:35 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>SS | 19 7:35 PM<br><b>FLA</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 20 7:35 PM<br><b>MIL</b><br>SS | 21 7:35 PM<br><b>MIL</b><br>SS       | 22 7:05 PM<br><b>MIL</b><br>SS  |
| 23 1:05 PM<br><b>MIL</b><br>TBS | 24                             | 25 7:05 PM<br><b>PHI</b><br>SS | 26 7:05 PM<br><b>PHI</b><br>FSN SOUTH | 27 7:05 PM<br><b>PHI</b><br>SS | 28 8:05 PM<br><b>HOU</b><br>SS       | 29 7:05 PM<br><b>HOU</b><br>SS  |
| 30 2:05 PM<br><b>HOU</b><br>TBS |                                |                                |                                       |                                |                                      |                                 |



All games on The Bull (94.9) and WGST-AM (640)



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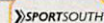
FSN Fox Sports Net South



TBS Turner Broadcasting System



SS SportSouth



## PROMO GAMES FREE STUFF

| Date     | Giveaway                | Visitors  | To First | Sponsor     |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| June 7   | Jeff Francoeur T-Shirts | Cubs      | 15,000   | Delta       |
| June 19  | Rally Towels            | Red Sox   | 30,000   | Holiday Inn |
| June 23  | Braves Hats             | Tigers    | 30,000   | NAPA        |
| June 25  | Andruw Jones Bats       | Nationals | 15,000   | Home Depot  |
| July 19  | Brian McCann Statues    | Cardinals | 15,000   | Coca-Cola   |
| July 21  | Rally Flags             | Cardinals | 45,000   | NAPA        |
| Aug. 2   | Brian McCann T-Shirts   | Astros    | 10,000   | Delta       |
| Aug. 5   | Baseball Cards          | Rockies   | TBD      | Upper Deck  |
| Aug. 16  | Chipper Jones Statues   | Giants    | 15,000   | Coca-Cola   |
| Aug. 31  | Braves Hats             | Mets      | 45,000   | Delta       |
| Sept. 9  | Pet Calendars           | Nationals | TBD      | Pet/Garden  |
| Sept. 20 | John Smoltz Statues     | Brewers   | 15,000   | Coca-Cola   |



# OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

| SUNDAY                       | MONDAY                       | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                    | THURSDAY                            | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                     |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
|                              | 1                            | 2       | 3<br>07 DIVISION SERIES      | 4                                   | 5      | 6                            |
| 7                            | 8                            | 9       | 10                           | 11<br>07 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES | 12     | 13                           |
| 14                           | 15                           | 16      | 17                           | 18                                  | 19     | 20                           |
| 21                           | 22                           | 23      | 24<br>07 WORLD SERIES GAME 1 | 25<br>07 WORLD SERIES GAME 2        | 26     | 27<br>07 WORLD SERIES GAME 3 |
| 28<br>07 WORLD SERIES GAME 4 | 29<br>07 WORLD SERIES GAME 5 | 30      | 31<br>07 WORLD SERIES GAME 6 | 1<br>07 WORLD SERIES GAME 7         |        |                              |

**DIVISION SERIES**  
TBS & TNT

**LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
TBS

**WORLD SERIES**  
FOX

\* If Needed



## ROSTER

As of May 13

### PITCHERS 15\*

30 Kevin Barry  
40 Lance Cormier\*  
26 Kyle Davies  
51 Mike Gonzalez  
15 Tim Hudson  
36 Chuck James  
50 Anthony Lerew  
58 Peter Moylan

\*DISABLED

+ 12 PITCHERS ACTIVE;  
# 2 CATCHERS ACTIVE

54 Chad Paronto  
19 Mark Redman\*  
29 John Smoltz  
39 Rafael Soriano  
56 Oscar Villarreal  
28 Bob Wickman\*  
33 Tyler Yates

### CATCHERS 3\*

16 Brian McCann  
8 Brayan Pena\*  
18 Jarrod Saltalamacchia

### INFELDERS 7

2 Kelly Johnson  
10 Chipper Jones  
4 Pete Orr  
11 Edgar Renteria  
20 Scott Thorman

38 Craig Wilson  
5 Chris Woodward

### OUTFIELDERS 4

23 Matt Diaz  
7 Jeff Francoeur  
22 Willie Harris  
25 Andruw Jones



# MLB

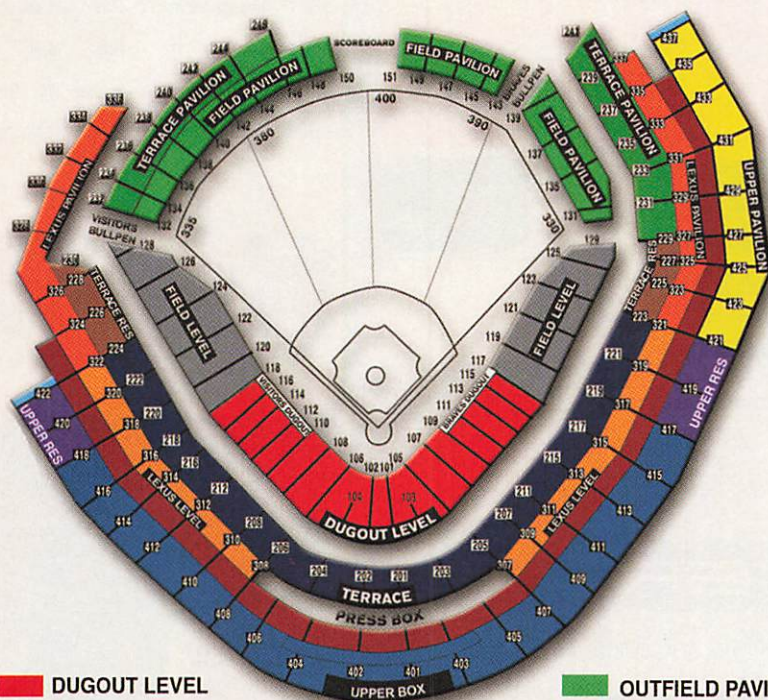
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## 4-GAME PACKS

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Terrace Level.....      | \$132 |
| Outfield Pavilion ..... | \$76  |
| Upper Box.....          | \$44  |

- Labor Day Pkg:** Aug. 31 (Mets), Sept. 1 (Mets), Sept. 2 (Mets), Sept. 3 (Philadelphia).
- Cubs Pkg:** June 7, 8, 9, 10 (Cubs).
- Friday Fireworks Pkg:** June 22 (Tigers), July 13 (Pirates), July 20 (Cardinals), Sept. 7 (Nationals).
- Saturday Pkg:** June 23 (Tigers), Aug. 18 (Diamondbacks), Sept. 1 (Mets), Sept. 22 (Brewers).



**DUGOUT LEVEL**  
**TERRACE LEVEL**  
**FIELD LEVEL**  
**LEXUS**

**OUTFIELD PAVILLION**  
**UPPER BOX**  
**TERRACE RESERVED**  
**LEXUS PAVILLION**  
**UPPER PAVILLION**

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\* Minimum 9 Games For As Low As \$99

| Location          | Regular Price* | Flex Price* | Premium Price* | Flex Price* |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Lexus Level       | \$36           | \$35        | \$40           | \$35        |
| Terrace Level     | \$34           | \$33        | \$38           | \$33        |
| Lexus Pavilion    | \$28           | \$27        | \$32           | \$27        |
| Outfield Pavilion | \$20           | \$19        | \$24           | \$19        |
| Upper Box         | \$12           | \$11        | \$16           | \$11        |

\* Per Game

## 20-GAME PACKS

Pre-Selected Games.

\$680/Pack Lexus Level

or \$600/Pack Field Level

- Murphy Plan** (Tuesdays & Fridays)  
**Aaron Plan** (Wednesdays & Saturdays)  
**Niekro Plan** (Thursdays & Sundays)  
**Spahn Plan** (Key Weekdays)





## TICKET INFO

### INDIVIDUAL PRICES

| Location               | Gate Price | Premium Price* | Season Price |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Dugout                 | \$56       | \$60           | \$48         |
| Suite                  | \$56       | \$60           | \$48         |
| Lexus                  | \$36       | \$40           | \$32         |
| Field                  | \$34       | \$38           | \$28         |
| Terrace                | \$34       | \$38           | \$28         |
| Lexus Pavilion         | \$28       | \$32           | \$26         |
| Terrace Reserved       | \$24       | \$28           | \$22         |
| Field/Terrace Pavilion | \$20       | \$24           | \$10         |
| Upper Box              | \$12       | \$16           | \$10         |
| Upper Reserved         | \$8        | \$12           | N/A          |
| Upper Pavilion         | \$6        | \$6            | \$3          |
| Skyline                | \$1        | \$1            | N/A          |

\*All Friday and Saturday regular season games plus the June 18-20 series vs. Boston Red Sox

### SEASON PLANS & PRICES

| Location               | Full Season<br>(83 games) | Half Season<br>(42 games) | Weekend<br>30 Games | 20-games |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Dugout                 | \$3,984                   | N/A                       | N/A                 | N/A      |
| Lexus                  | \$2,656                   | \$1,428                   | \$1,020             | \$680    |
| Field                  | \$2,324                   | \$1,260                   | \$900               | \$600    |
| Terrace                | \$2,324                   | N/A                       | N/A                 | N/A      |
| Lexus Pavilion*        | \$2,158                   | N/A                       | \$780               | N/A      |
| Terrace Reserved*      | \$1,826                   | N/A                       | \$660               | N/A      |
| Field/Terrace Pavilion | \$830                     | \$672                     | \$480               | N/A      |
| Upper Box              | \$830                     | \$462                     | \$330               | N/A      |
| Upper Pavilion         | \$249                     | N/A                       | N/A                 | N/A      |

\*Lexus Pavilion & Terrace Reserved – Buy two (2) full season seats & get 2 full seats free

## MUSEUM & TOUR INFO

The Ivan Allen Jr. Braves Museum features more than 500 Braves artifacts that trace the team's history from its beginnings in Boston (1871-1952) to Milwaukee (1953-65) to Atlanta (1966-present). It is located on the northwest side of Turner Field at aisle 134. The museum opens two and a half hours before each game and closes in the middle of the seventh inning. The museum is open year-round and is the starting point of one-hour guided tours of Turner Field. Tours leave on the hour.

Tour reservations are not necessary for individuals or groups of less than 20 people. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at the main ticket window. Free parking in the Green lot.

Admission to the museum during games is one token (\*2) and \$5 on non-game days. Tour tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and \$7 for groups of 20 or more. Walk-up tickets can be purchased at the ticket window. Groups of 20 or more and school groups must make reservations two weeks in advance by calling (404) 614-2311.



### HOURS OF OPERATION

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>APRIL - OCTOBER</b> |                  |
| Monday - Saturday      | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  |
| Sunday                 | 1 - 3 p.m.       |
| <b>OCTOBER - MARCH</b> |                  |
| Monday - Saturday      | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. |
| DEC. 23-JAN. 3         | CLOSED           |

### TOUR TICKETS

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| ADULTS                | \$10 |
| CHILDREN 13 and Under | \$5  |

\*Subject to change  
Tours not available when the Braves have afternoon home games

### SEASON PARKING\*

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Full Season  | \$850 |
| Half Season  | \$430 |
| Weekend Plan | \$310 |
| 20-Game Plan | \$200 |

\* Includes Free Post-Season Parking

### SPECIAL PACKAGES

#### GRAND SLAM PACK

"MasterCard Grand Slam packs" include 4 tickets, 4 hot dogs, 4 Cokes, a Braves yearbook and a parking pass! Available every Sunday through Thursday.

| Location          | Regular Games |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Upper Box         | \$59          |
| Outfield Pavilion | \$79          |
| Lexus Pavilion    | \$99          |

#### TWO-FOR-ONE TUESDAYS

Fans can purchase two-for-one Upper Level Reserved seats on "Coca-Cola Two-For-One Tuesdays."

#### OUTFIELD ADVANTAGE

Fans can purchase two-for-one Outfield Pavilion seats on "McDonald's Outfield Advantage" Wednesdays.

#### COLLEGE/MILITARY 2 FOR 1

Show college or military ID for 2 for 1 Upper Box seats.

### THEME GAMES

|                             |                                                         |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>June 9</b><br>Cubs       | Parrot Head Night<br>Jimmy Buffett /<br>Key West Theme  |
| <b>June 10</b><br>Cubs      | Army Day<br>Fly Over, Army Theme                        |
| <b>June 18</b><br>Red Sox   | Asian Heritage Night<br>Asian Performances in<br>Plaza  |
| <b>June 23</b><br>Tigers    | Motown Night<br>Motown Music Theme<br>in Plaza          |
| <b>July 13</b><br>Pirates   | Firefighters Appreciation<br>Firefighters in Plaza      |
| <b>July 14</b><br>Pirates   | Christmas in July<br>Santa, Snow in Plaza,<br>Toy Drive |
| <b>July 21</b><br>Cardinals | NASCAR Night<br>Stock Cars in-game                      |
| <b>Aug. 4</b><br>Rockies    | Disco Day<br>Disco Theme                                |



# GAME BY GAME

| GAME | DATE | OPP. | H/A | W-L | SCORE    | W/L PITCHER      | ATL HRs                             | REC.  | POS. | GB     |
|------|------|------|-----|-----|----------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|--------|
| 1    | 4/2  | PHI  | A   | W   | 5-3 (10) | Wickman (1-0)    | McCann (1), Renteria 2 (2)          | 1-0   | T-1  | --     |
| 2    | 4/4  | PHI  | A   | W   | 3-2 (11) | McBride (1-0)    | McCann (2), Thorman (1)             | 2-0   | 2    | -1/2   |
| 3    | 4/5  | PHI  | A   | W   | 8-4      | James (1-0)      | Johnson (1)                         | 3-0   | T-1  | --     |
| 4    | 4/6  | NYM  | H   | L   | 1-11     | Redman (0-1)     | Francoeur (1)                       | 3-1   | 2    | -1     |
| 5    | 4/7  | NYM  | H   | W   | 5-3      | Smoltz (1-0)     | Diaz (1)                            | 4-1   | T-1  | --     |
| 6    | 4/8  | NYM  | H   | W   | 3-2      | Soriano (1-0)    | Johnson (2)                         | 5-1   | 1    | --     |
| 7    | 4/10 | WAS  | H   | W   | 8-0      | Hudson (1-0)     | A. Jones (1), Francoeur (2)         | 6-1   | 1    | +1     |
| 8    | 4/11 | WAS  | H   | W   | 8-3      | James (2-0)      | A. Jones (2), C. Jones (1)          | 7-1   | 1    | +2     |
| 9    | 4/12 | WAS  | H   | L   | 0-2      | Smoltz (1-1)     | --                                  | 7-2   | 1    | +1     |
| 10   | 4/13 | FLA  | H   | L   | 4-11     | Redman (0-2)     | C. Jones (2), Pena (1)              | 7-3   | T-1  | --     |
| 11   | 4/15 | FLA  | H   | W   | 8-4      | Hudson (2-0)     | C. Jones (3), A. Jones (3)          | 8-3   | 1    | +1     |
| 12   | 4/16 | WAS  | A   | L   | 1-5      | James (2-1)      | --                                  | 8-4   | 1    | +1/2   |
| 13   | 4/17 | WAS  | A   | W   | 6-4      | Smoltz (2-1)     | C. Jones (4)                        | 9-4   | 1    | +1/2   |
| 14   | 4/18 | CHI  | H   | W   | 8-6      | Villarreal (1-0) | Francoeur (3), Thorman (2)          | 1     | +1/2 |        |
| 15   | 4/19 | CHI  | H   | L   | 0-3      | Redman (0-3)     | --                                  | 10-5  | 2    | -1/2   |
| 16   | 4/20 | NYM  | A   | W   | 7-3      | Hudson (3-0)     | C. Jones (5)                        | 11-5  | 1    | +1/2   |
| 17   | 4/21 | NYM  | A   | L   | 2-7      | James (2-2)      | --                                  | 11-6  | 2    | -1/2   |
| 18   | 4/22 | NYM  | A   | W   | 9-6      | Yates (1-0)      | Johnson 2 (4), Renteria (3)         | 12-6  | 1    | +1/2   |
| 19   | 4/23 | FLA  | A   | L   | 7-8      | Davies (0-1)     | Francoeur (4), C. Jones (5)         | 12-7  | 2    | -1/2   |
| 20   | 4/24 | FLA  | A   | W   | 11-6     | Moylan (1-0)     | --                                  | 13-7  | 2    | -1/2   |
| 21   | 4/25 | FLA  | A   | L   | 3-4      | Wickman (1-1)    | Johnson (5), C. Jones (7), Diaz (2) | 13-8  | 2    | -1/2   |
| 22   | 4/27 | COL  | A   | W   | 9-7      | James (3-2)      | A. Jones (4), Wilson (1)            | 14-8  | 1    | +1/2   |
| 23   | 4/28 | COL  | A   | W   | 6-2      | Smoltz (3-1)     | Francoeur (5), Renteria (4)         | 15-8  | 1    | +1/2   |
| 24   | 4/29 | COL  | A   | L   | 7-9 (11) | Colyer (0-1)     | Thorman (3)                         | 15-9  | 2    | -1/2   |
| 25   | 4/30 | PHI  | H   | W   | 5-2      | Gonzalez (1-0)   | C. Jones (8), A. Jones (5)          | 16-9  | 1    | +1/2   |
| 26   | 5/1  | PHI  | H   | L   | 4-6      | Redman (0-4)     | C. Jones 2 (10)                     | 16-10 | 1    | +1/2   |
| 27   | 5/2  | PHI  | H   | W   | 4-3      | Paronto (1-0)    | --                                  | 17-10 | 1    | +1/2   |
| 28   | 5/4  | LAD  | H   | W   | 4-0      | Smoltz (4-1)     | --                                  | 18-10 | T-1  | --     |
| 29   | 5/5  | LAD  | H   | L   | 3-6      | Hudson (3-1)     | --                                  | 18-11 | 2    | -1     |
| 30   | 5/6  | LAD  | H   | W   | 6-4      | Paronto (2-0)    | --                                  | 19-11 | T-1  | --     |
| 31   | 5/7  | SD   | H   | L   | 2-4      | James (3-3)      | --                                  | 19-12 | T-1  | --     |
| 32   | 5/8  | SD   | H   | W   | 3-2      | Gonzalez (2-0)   | --                                  | 20-12 | T-1  | --     |
| 33   | 5/9  | SD   | H   | W   | 3-2      | Smoltz (5-1)     | --                                  | 21-12 | T-1  | --     |
| 34   | 5/10 | SD   | H   | W   | 5-3      | Hudson (4-1)     | --                                  | 22-12 | 1    | +1/2   |
| 35   | 5/11 | PIT  | A   | W   | 4-1      | Davies (1-1)     | A. Jones (5), Francoeur (5)         | 23-12 | 1    | +1/2   |
| 36   | 5/12 | PIT  | A   | W   | 9-2      | James (4-3)      | Thorman 2 (5)                       | 24-12 | 1    | +1 1/2 |
| 37   | 5/13 | PIT  | A   | L   | 2-13     | Lerew (0-1)      | --                                  | 24-13 | 1    | +1/2   |
| 38   | 5/14 | WAS  | A   | L   | 1-2      | Smoltz (5-2)     | McCann (3)                          | 24-14 | 2    | -1/2   |



## FAQs CONTACTS

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| TERM    | CANADA & OTHER |         |         |
|---------|----------------|---------|---------|
|         | DOMESTIC       | MEXICO  | FOREIGN |
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| 2 YEARS | \$64.95        | NA      | NA      |

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# INDIVIDUAL STATS

Through May 14

| BATTERS        | AVG  | SLG  | OBP  | G  | AB    | R   | H   | TB  | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB  | SO  | SB | CS | E  |
|----------------|------|------|------|----|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| Harris         | .421 | .553 | .500 | 14 | 38    | 5   | 16  | 21  | 5  | 0  | 0  | 4   | 6   | 9   | 4  | 2  | 0  |
| Renteria       | .318 | .466 | .373 | 35 | 148   | 27  | 47  | 69  | 8  | 1  | 4  | 20  | 13  | 20  | 2  | 1  | 3  |
| Diaz           | .315 | .425 | .338 | 30 | 73    | 9   | 23  | 31  | 2  | 0  | 2  | 4   | 2   | 11  | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Francoeur      | .304 | .493 | .358 | 38 | 148   | 20  | 45  | 73  | 10 | 0  | 6  | 30  | 11  | 32  | 1  | 1  | 2  |
| Jones, C.      | .303 | .636 | .410 | 35 | 132   | 28  | 40  | 84  | 12 | 1  | 10 | 23  | 24  | 22  | 0  | 0  | 4  |
| RIGHT          | .306 | .661 | .348 |    | 62    |     | 19  | 41  | 5  | 1  | 5  | 11  | 4   | 9   |    |    |    |
| LEFT           | .300 | .614 | .456 |    | 70    |     | 21  | 43  | 7  | 0  | 5  | 12  | 20  | 13  |    |    |    |
| McCann         | .295 | .464 | .360 | 32 | 112   | 12  | 33  | 52  | 10 | 0  | 3  | 18  | 12  | 17  | 0  | 0  | 5  |
| Johnson        | .275 | .478 | .405 | 37 | 138   | 30  | 38  | 66  | 9  | 2  | 5  | 21  | 30  | 29  | 4  | 1  | 2  |
| Saltalamacchia | .250 | .250 | .400 | 4  | 12    | 1   | 3   | 3   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   | 2   | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| RIGHT          | .250 | .250 | .250 |    | 4     |     | 1   | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 1   |    |    |    |
| LEFT           | .250 | .250 | .455 |    | 8     |     | 2   | 2   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   | 2   | 0   |    |    |    |
| Thorman        | .247 | .483 | .287 | 32 | 89    | 12  | 22  | 43  | 6  | 0  | 5  | 19  | 4   | 16  | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Jones, A.      | .222 | .437 | .355 | 38 | 135   | 21  | 30  | 59  | 11 | 0  | 6  | 27  | 26  | 41  | 1  | 0  | 1  |
| Pena           | .217 | .348 | .217 | 10 | 23    | 2   | 5   | 8   | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1   | 0   | 2   | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| RIGHT          | .200 | .400 | .200 |    | 15    |     | 3   | 6   | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1   | 0   | 1   |    |    |    |
| LEFT           | .250 | .250 | .250 |    | 8     |     | 2   | 2   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 1   |    |    |    |
| Orr            | .190 | .238 | .227 | 19 | 21    | 1   | 4   | 5   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 2   | 1   | 6   | 0  | 0  | 1  |
| Woodward       | .234 | .298 | .260 | 23 | 47    | 4   | 11  | 14  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 4   | 2   | 9   | 1  | 0  | 2  |
| Wilson         | .172 | .259 | .304 | 24 | 58    | 6   | 10  | 15  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 2   | 8   | 25  | 0  | 0  | 1  |
| *Langerhans    | .068 | .091 | .192 | 20 | 44    | 3   | 3   | 4   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   | 6   | 16  | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| ATLANTA        | .260 | .430 | .342 | 38 | 1,286 | 184 | 334 | 553 | 80 | 5  | 43 | 178 | 152 | 281 | 15 | 6  | 25 |
| OPPONENTS      | .259 | .393 | .339 | 38 | 1,291 | 165 | 334 | 507 | 62 | 12 | 29 | 155 | 151 | 268 | 20 | 12 | 26 |

Totals include pitchers' hitting. \*No longer in organization.

**PINCH HITTERS (AVG-H-HR-RBI)** Diaz (.538-7-0-0), Thorman (.333-3-0-3), Orr (.250-3-0-2), Woodward (.083-1-0-2), Jones, C. (.000-0-0-0), Harris (.000-0-0-0), Johnson (.000-0-0-0), McCann (.000-0-0-0), Pena (.000-0-0-0), Wilson (.000-0-0-1), \*Langerhans (.000-0-0-0). TEAM (.226-14-0-8).

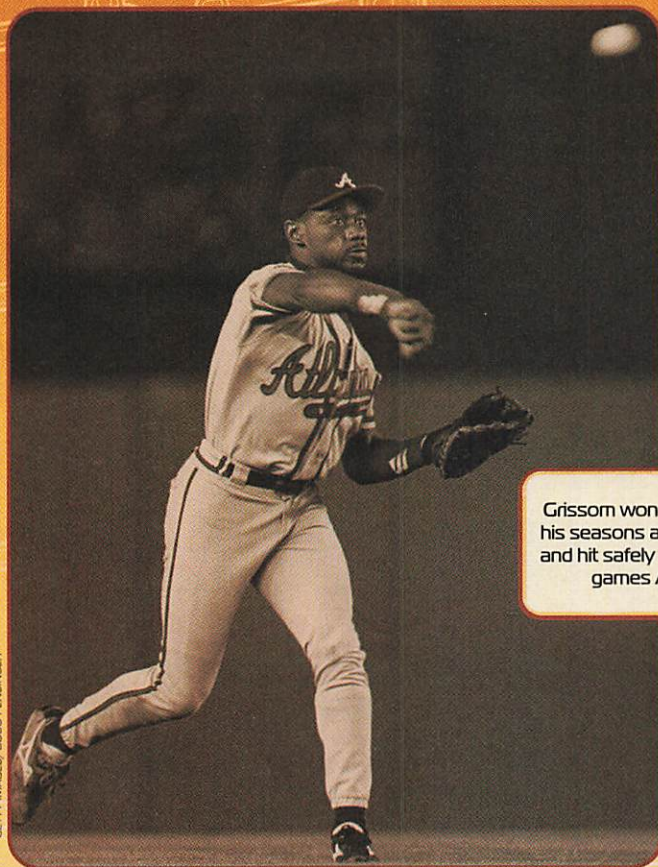
**PITCHERS (AVG-H-HR-RBI)** Hudson (.158-3-0-1), Smoltz (.059-1-0-0), James (.000-0-0-0), Davies (.000-0-0-0), Lerew (.000-0-0-0), Moylan (.000-0-0-0), Redman (.000-0-0-0), Villarreal (.000-0-0-0), STAFF (.059-4-0-1).

KEY: AVG-Batting average, SLG-Slugging percentage, OBP-One-base percentage, G-Games, AB-At-bats, R-Runs, H-Hits, 2B-Doubles, 3B-Triples, HR-Home runs, RBI-Runs batted in, BB-Walks, SO-Strikeouts, HP-Hit by pitch, SB-Stolen bases, CS-Caught stealing, E-Errors, W-L-Wins-Losses, ERA-Earned run average, OBA-Opponents' batting average, GS-Games started, CG-Complete games, GF-Games finished, SV-Saves, IP-Innings pitched, ER-Earned runs.

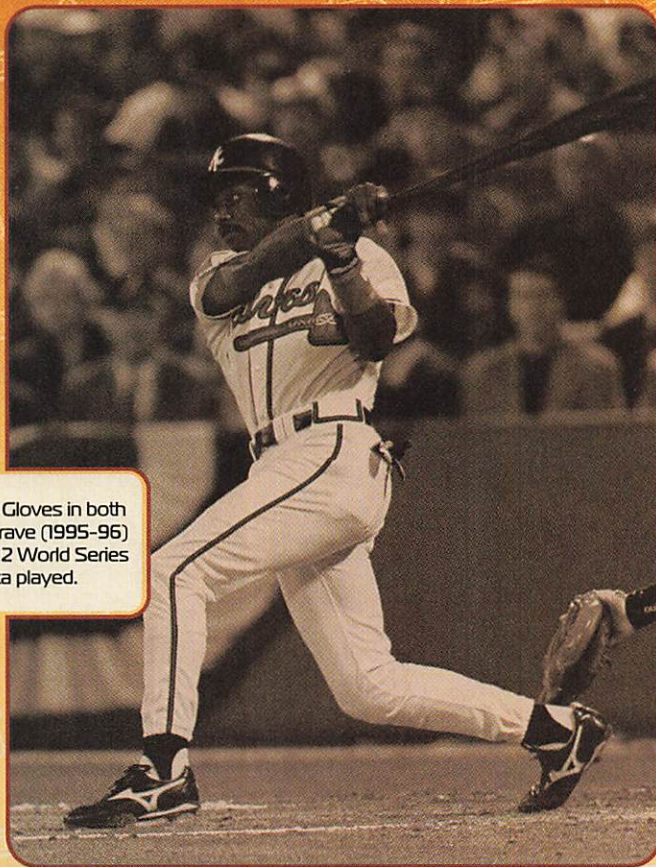
| PITCHERS   | W-L | ERA   | OBA  | G  | GS | CG | GF | SV | IP   | H  | R  | ER | HR | BB | SO  |
|------------|-----|-------|------|----|----|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Gonzalez   | 2-0 | 1.10  | .237 | 17 | 0  | 0  | 5  | 2  | 16.1 | 14 | 2  | 2  | 0  | 8  | 13  |
| Hudson     | 4-1 | 1.83  | .213 | 8  | 8  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 59   | 45 | 12 | 12 | 2  | 12 | 39  |
| Moylan     | 1-0 | 2.20  | .176 | 11 | 0  | 0  | 3  | 1  | 16.1 | 9  | 4  | 4  | 1  | 8  | 8   |
| Soriano    | 1-0 | 2.95  | .127 | 19 | 0  | 0  | 8  | 5  | 18.1 | 8  | 6  | 6  | 1  | 5  | 16  |
| Smoltz     | 5-2 | 3.19  | .261 | 9  | 9  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 59.1 | 60 | 23 | 21 | 6  | 17 | 48  |
| Wickman    | 1-1 | 3.97  | .244 | 13 | 0  | 0  | 10 | 6  | 11.1 | 11 | 6  | 5  | 0  | 10 | 9   |
| Yates      | 1-0 | 4.00  | .197 | 20 | 0  | 0  | 4  | 0  | 18   | 13 | 11 | 8  | 0  | 6  | 20  |
| James      | 4-3 | 4.04  | .272 | 8  | 8  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 42.1 | 44 | 19 | 19 | 6  | 17 | 32  |
| Colyer     | 0-1 | 4.91  | .500 | 7  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 3.2  | 9  | 2  | 2  | 1  | 4  | 4   |
| Paronto    | 2-0 | 5.23  | .353 | 13 | 0  | 0  | 4  | 1  | 10.1 | 12 | 6  | 6  | 0  | 8  | 6   |
| Villarreal | 1-0 | 5.29  | .319 | 12 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 17 | 22   | 12 | 10 | 2  | 9  | 21 | 319 |
| Davies     | 1-1 | 5.35  | .264 | 6  | 6  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 33.2 | 34 | 20 | 20 | 5  | 20 | 24  |
| McBride    | 1-0 | 6.00  | .286 | 5  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 3    | 4  | 5  | 2  | 0  | 11 | 3   |
| Lerew      | 0-1 | 6.52  | .250 | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 9.2  | 9  | 7  | 7  | 2  | 5  | 9   |
| Redman     | 0-4 | 10.62 | .370 | 5  | 5  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 20.1 | 34 | 25 | 24 | 3  | 9  | 12  |
| Barry      | 0-0 | 22.50 | .500 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 2    | 6  | 5  | 5  | 0  | 2  | 4   |

|           |       |      |      |    |    |   |    |    |       |     |     |     |    |     |     |
|-----------|-------|------|------|----|----|---|----|----|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| ATLANTA   | 24-14 | 4.04 | .259 | 38 | 38 | 0 | 38 | 15 | 340.2 | 334 | 165 | 153 | 29 | 151 | 268 |
| OPPONENTS | 14-24 | 4.41 | .260 | 38 | 38 | 0 | 38 | 7  | 334.1 | 334 | 184 | 164 | 43 | 152 | 281 |





Grissom won Gold Gloves in both his seasons as a Brave (1995-96) and hit safely in all 12 World Series games Atlanta played.



## THE EDUCATOR

MARQUIS GRISSOM SAYS HE "HITS A HOME RUN EVERY DAY" IN SPREADING LESSONS OF BASEBALL

BY BRIAN KNAPP

**MARQUIS GRISSOM MADE** the catch thousands of times before – as a kid growing up in small-town Georgia, as a scrawny teenager at Lakeshore High School in Atlanta, as a blue-chip prospect in the Montreal Expos' farm system. But this one was different.

Grissom recalls the night of Oct. 28, 1995, in vivid detail: The feeling of autumn air as it swept across Atlanta-Fulton-County Stadium, the sounds of a capacity crowd on the edge of its collective seat, and, most of all, the sight of the ball as it left Carlos Baerga's bat and headed his way with two outs in the ninth inning.

"I can still see the ball coming down," Grissom said.

As the final out of the 1995 World Series nestled into Grissom's golden glove, he lifted his arms in triumph and raced towards the infield, where his teammates mobbed closer Mark Wohlers... Champions at last – for the first, and still only, time in Atlanta.

"It was unbelievable," Grissom said. "I visualize things about that team all the time. You go out and win a World Series, and you form a special bond with those teammates."

Grissom spent two seasons in Atlanta after being acquired from Montreal in an April 1995 trade for Tony Tarasco, Esteban Yan and Roberto Kelly. He helped take the Braves to consecutive World

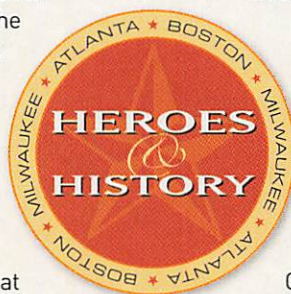
Series appearances (1995-96) and enjoyed a career year in 1996, when he posted personal bests in batting (.308), runs scored (106), hits (207), doubles (32), triples (10) and home runs (23).

Dealt to Cleveland just prior to the 1997 season along with David Justice in a controversial trade for Kenny Lofton and Alan Embree, Grissom concedes his tenure in Atlanta did not last as long as he would have liked.

"I was a little hurt at the time," Grissom said. "I just figured it was business. Coming to Atlanta was one of the best things that ever happened to me. To be at home, to go to the World Series two times... it was priceless."

One of 15 children, Grissom grew up in Red Oak, Ga., a small town south of Atlanta between College Park and Union City. The son of a housemaid and a lifelong Ford Motor Company employee, Grissom and his 14 siblings grew up poor, without running water and air conditioning. The experience, which he remembers fondly, had a profound impact on him.

"I had great parents," Grissom said. "We had a big family. There was a lot of love and a lot of butt whoopin's, but there was never a boring day. My mom and dad have been married for 62 years. The way they raised 15 kids and about 40 nieces and nephews... they're my heroes."







Grissom (L) makes a call to the bullpen while one of his young pitchers learns to deal with coming out of a game.

Released by San Francisco in 2005, Grissom retired on Mar. 28, 2006, during spring training with the Cubs.

"The love was always there, but I told myself if I wasn't able to be an everyday player, I would leave," Grissom said. "I just couldn't do it any more. It was time for me to go. I didn't want to be one of those ballplayers who came home with a limp. I decided that wasn't going to be me."

While many players spend life after baseball playing golf and pursuing other forms of relaxation, Grissom chose another route – public service. In the fall of 2006, he founded the Marquis Grissom Baseball Association (MGBA), a non-profit organization that provides instruction and competition for youth baseball and fast-pitch softball players (ages 9-18). More than 100 signed up to participate in his spring league, which runs through early June at Wilkerson Mill Park in Palmetto, Ga.

"Talk about rewarding," said Grissom, who turned 40 in April. "I can't get enough. I hit a home run every day."

Grissom's list of priorities always featured family. A third-round draft choice of the Montreal Expos in 1988, he debuted in the major leagues a year later, developed into one of the National League's premier rookies in 1990, and was a millionaire before his 26th birthday. Once he secured his finances, Grissom built his parents a house in Hogansville, Ga., and bought homes for 12 of his 14 siblings.

"It was a no-brainer," Grissom said. "I felt obligated. That's how we grew up. If you had 10 apples, you shared them with everybody."

A two-time All-Star, Grissom played for six different teams over 17 major-league seasons. He won four consecutive Gold Gloves (1993-96) and twice led the NL in steals (76 in 1991, 78 in 1992). He had a .272 lifetime batting average (.286 as a Brave) with 227 home runs and 967 RBIs. In 2001, he played the entire season with the Dodgers without committing an error.

The MVP of the 1997 American League Championship Series, he played in three straight World Series (1995-97) with Atlanta and Cleveland, collecting 30 hits in 19 games (.390). In 1995, he hit safely in all 14 of the Braves' post-season games, and in '95 and '96, he hit safely in all 12 World Series games the Braves played.

Citing a documented decline in African-American participation in baseball in recent decades, Grissom felt compelled to try to reverse the trend, if only in his small part of the world. He found inspiration in Gary Staab, one of his former youth league coaches.

"He provided my glove; he provided food for my family," Grissom said. "He mentored me when I was 9, 10, 11 years old and followed me my whole career. I'm trying to do that for other kids. I felt obligated to go back and serve the community that made it possible for me to make it to the next level in life. This is an opportunity for [these kids] to develop as people, and I'm all about developing character."

If all goes according to plan, Grissom's efforts will not end with the formation and operation of the MGBA. He hopes to open a baseball academy in the near future, either in south Fulton County or on property he owns in Grantville, Ga. A single father of five – his children range in age from 2 to 15 – Grissom understands firsthand the importance of providing today's youth with positive avenues.

"I'm for the kids all across Georgia," Grissom said. "So many people helped me get to the major leagues. After I retired, I had to sit down and figure out what I wanted to do. I decided to teach baseball."

SPECIAL



# MINI MANAGER

DIMINUTIVE FRED HANEY STOOD MUCH TALLER AFTER DETHROWING THE YANKEES

BY BOB BUEGE

**IF FRED HANEY** ever stood 5-foot-6, he was standing on tip-toes. In October of 1957, though, the little manager of the Milwaukee Braves led his pack of underdogs into Yankee Stadium to challenge the mighty Yankees in the World Series.

The vaunted Bronx Bombers boasted four future Hall of Famers plus Don Larsen, who one year earlier pitched the only perfect game in post-season play. Led by manager Casey Stengel, the Yanks had won six of the previous eight World Series and basically treated the Fall Classic as their personal property.

Haney, with some pretty fair ballplayers of his own, was unimpressed. After his club clinched the National League pennant, he told the press, "You can say for me that we'll show up for the World Series."

Arriving in the Big Apple, Haney was asked by the New York writers if he thought his cow-kickers from America's Dairyland had a chance against the perennial winners from the big city.

The Braves' skipper was blunt: "I think we're going to win it."

Haney, of course, turned out to be a prophet. The Braves used the strong right arm of Lou Burdette, timely hitting, and some brilliant defense to win the Series, four games to three. On Oct. 10, 1957, after Burdette out-pitched Larsen in Game 7, Fred Girard Haney stood at the pinnacle of his profession.

How he got there is a testament to perseverance. Beginning at Los Angeles Polytechnic High School, he earned a reputation as one of the finest all-around athletes the city had produced, excelling in rugby, baseball, football, basketball, swimming, track, even handball. His prime asset was speed. To prove it, he once won a foot race with Charley Paddock, the future Olympian who first earned the nickname of "World's Fastest Human."

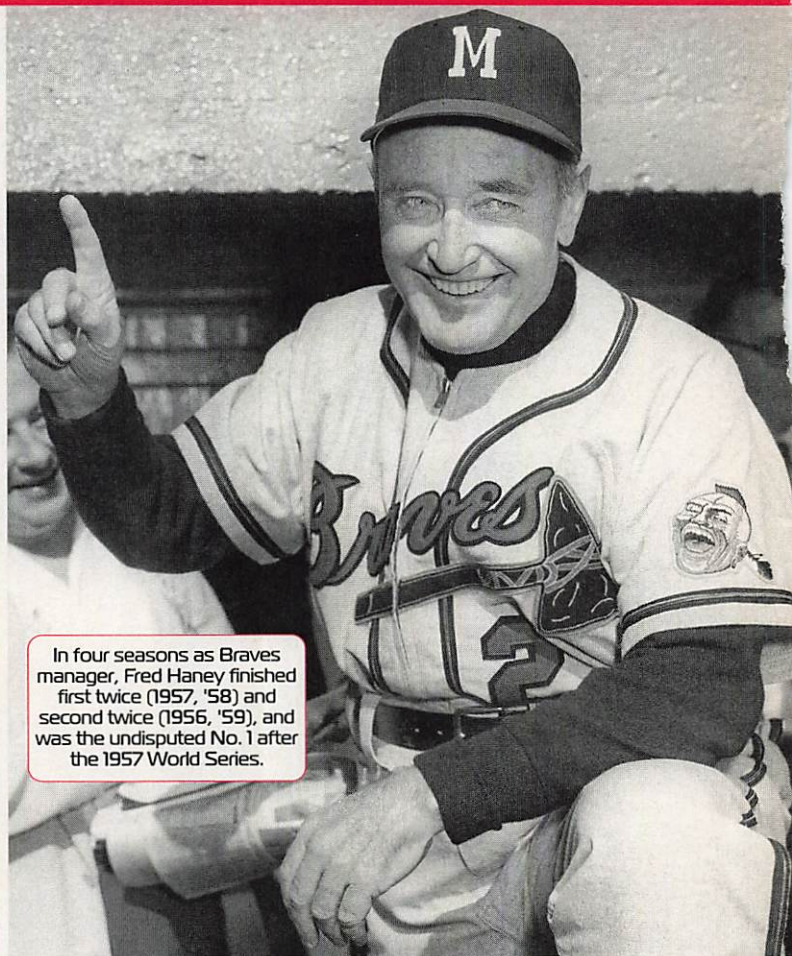
After serving on a Navy submarine during World War I, Haney joined the Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League. Later he played four seasons as an infielder with the Detroit Tigers under player-manager Ty Cobb, then finished his seven-year big league career with the Red Sox, Cubs and Cardinals. His small stature made him primarily a singles hitter, but he was a tough, brash competitor.

In a game at Yankee Stadium, Haney sliced a ball down the right-field line that barely cleared the short fence near the foul pole, just beyond the reach of rightfielder Babe Ruth. As the story goes, the cocky little infielder yelled to The Bambino, "Now you're only 50 ahead of me, ya big gorilla!"

A few innings later, Ruth blasted a tape-measure shot, and as he loped around third base, he asked Haney without looking up, "How do we stand now, Kid?"

Haney's playing days ended back in the Pacific Coast League with the Hollywood Stars in 1934. The next season he began a five-year stint managing the Toledo Mud Hens in the American Association. Haney did such a good job leading the Mud Hens that he was rewarded with the managerial job of the St. Louis Browns in 1939.

The word "rewarded" is used sarcastically. The Browns were the sorriest excuse for a major league team in the 1930s. Their *best* team in that decade finished



In four seasons as Braves manager, Fred Haney finished first twice (1957, '58) and second twice (1956, '59), and was the undisputed No. 1 after the 1957 World Series.

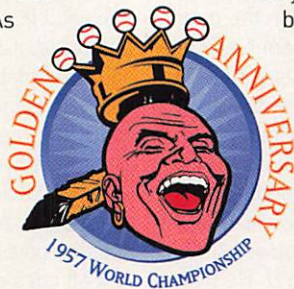
NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

18 games below .500. Their worst team, Haney's first as a major league manager, lost 111 games and finished 64 1/2 games behind the Yankees.

Haney's life entered a new dimension in 1943 when he moved back to California and became the radio voice of both the Hollywood Stars and the Los Angeles Angels. He quickly became a celebrity in that role, hobnobbing with movie stars like Bing Crosby, Gary Cooper and Gene Autry.

Haney proved so popular and earned such respect that in 1949 he was persuaded to manage the Hollywood club. In his first year, the Stars won the PCL championship and Haney was named Minor League Manager of the Year. Three years later, Branch Rickey hired Haney to manage the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Under Haney, the Pirates were about as lacking in talent as the Browns had been. In three seasons, the Bucs never climbed out of the league cellar, averaging 100 losses per year. Haney was cut loose by Pittsburgh after the 1955 season and signed as a coach by the Milwaukee Braves. When the faltering Braves fired manager Charlie Grimm in mid-June, 1956, Haney stepped in to replace his old Cubs teammate.



This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Milwaukee Braves' 1957 World Series championship. Throughout the year, ChopTalk will revisit one of the most-glorious accomplishments in franchise history with a series of stories about the people and highlights of this storied chapter in Braves history.



## HOW I MADE IT TO THE MAJORS

CASEY MOTTER  
PA ANNOUNCER

The Braves were in fifth place when Haney took the reins, but didn't stay there for long. Suddenly infused with a new spirit, the Braves won their first 11 games for their new manager, sweeping into first place. Haney refused to take the credit.

"Believe me, I'm no miracle man," he said. "The Braves themselves deserve the credit for their winning streak. Don't give me any of it."

The Braves stayed in first place most of the summer, but two heart-breaking, one-run losses in St. Louis on the final weekend of September cost them the pennant by one game. It was a bitter disappointment.

Spring training of 1957 was the toughest that most of the Braves had ever experienced. They were accustomed to the easy-going ways of "Jolly Cholly" Grimm.

Haney put the Braves through grueling hours of practice and conditioning, often followed by intrasquad games.

In addition to selecting the lineup and determining strategy, Haney tried his best to motivate his ballplayers. In early June he brought his old teammate, Ty Cobb, into the clubhouse.

Cobb was just one of many guest speakers Haney invited.

"Fred was Mr. Hollywood," Mathews recalled. "He knew everybody out there. He liked to bring in movie stars to talk to us, I guess to impress us. One time he brought Pat O'Brien into the clubhouse to give us the Gipper speech from *The Knute Rockne Story*."

Haney's 1957 Braves had talent, but they also had injuries, so many that in a three-day stretch, second baseman Red Schoendienst, emergency first baseman Nippy Jones, and catcher Del Crandall all became outfielders.

Facing relentless pressure to win, Haney also encountered his own health issues. In mid-June he was hospitalized with acute gastritis for three games. Milwaukee fans, zealous in their pursuit of a pennant, offered little sympathy. On July 15, after the Braves absorbed a 20-4 thrashing from the Dodgers at Ebbets Field, a few of the good folks back in Milwaukee hanged the Braves' manager in effigy.

Ultimately Haney, who died in 1977 at age 79, found enough healthy bodies, including minor league callups like relief pitcher Don McMahon and batting sensation Bob "Hurricane" Hazle, to bring Milwaukee its first National League pennant and World Series championship.

BY STEVE FALL

Casey Motter began announcing Little League baseball games because he saw what it meant to the kids. He never thought it could lead to a job at Turner Field.

Motter's story proves that you never know who's watching. When he announced a youth football playoff game in Peachtree City last November, the crowd included Braves' assistant general manager Frank Wren, who was watching his son.

"I was doing my normal announcing job," said Motter. "He was there - I had no idea. He told me that he put it on a camcorder and later showed everybody in the office. They said, 'Let's give him a call and see if he'd be interested.'"

Getting noticed turned out to be just the first step. Motter next tried out against 12 professional announcers at Turner Field before this season. Although he said he was a bundle of nerves, the 38-year-old Motter landed the position. His unlikely story drew coverage from the *New York Times* and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He even appeared on CNN Headline News' "Robin & Company" show.

Motter described the whole experience as "a dream come true." He loves the feeling when the crowd reacts to his introductions, especially for stars like John Smoltz, Andruw Jones, and Chipper Jones.

"You connect with the crowd, and you can create the atmosphere," said Motter, who grew up in the Atlanta suburb of Smyrna.

Motter works every home game, arriving at the ballpark three and a half hours prior to the first pitch. He begins by going through a pre-game run-down with the game entertainment staff. Before a series opener, he meets with the visiting team's radio crew to make sure he pronounces all their players' names correctly. He also studies his promotional "reads", and reviews the lineups and rosters.

Motter first announced games for the Peachtree City Youth Football Association. He always received compliments on his voice, so he decided to give it a try. After a few games, the coach asked him to stay on for the rest of the season. He went on to announce Little League baseball for eight years.

"It didn't matter what kind of game they were having," said Motter, recalling the look on the young players' faces. "When they got to bat, they'd be thinking, 'He's going to introduce me as I walk up.'"

Motter played baseball until he was 11 or 12, but gravitated more toward football. He now lives in Newnan, south of Atlanta. He has four sons from five to 14 years old, and works full-time as a termite inspector.

Motter explained how many public address announcers in Major League Baseball have professional experience, but it's not always necessary. Although he thoroughly enjoyed working Little League games, he also recalls lugging his equipment into tiny press boxes that lacked air conditioning.

"They would have to enjoy doing it," said Motter, when asked if aspiring announcers should attempt a similar path to the big leagues. "But that's how I got to this position."



ALLISON SHIRRETS



# ALUMNI NOTES

 **Hank Aaron** (OF/1B, 1954-74) may be on the verge of losing the all-time home run record, but the Milwaukee Brewers are going to great lengths to make sure the landing spot of his last homer - No. 755 - will never be forgotten.

The Brewers will unveil a plaque this month commemorating the spot where Aaron's last home run - hit off the Angels' Dick Drago on July 20, 1976 - touched down. Aaron is expected to attend the unveiling.

Dr. Alan J. Horowitz, an engineering professor from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and three of his students were given the task by the Brewers of identifying the spot that they believe has the coordinates: N 43 degrees 1.821 minutes/W 87 degrees 58.347 minutes. That's in a parking lot - Brewers Lot 1 - outside Miller Park at the former location of County Stadium and the current site of a statue of Aaron.

The plaque will be built into the parking lot surface.

 **Eddie Mathews** (3B/1B, 1952-66), **Warren Spahn** (LHP, 1942, '46-64) and former Braves general manager **John Quinn** (1945-58) will be inducted into the Miller Park Walk of Fame this summer. It's the first year - coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Braves' 1957 World Championship - that former Milwaukee Braves players, managers and personnel were included in voting for the Walk of Fame.

The families of Mathews, Quinn and Spahn will participate in an on-field ceremony at Miller Park on Aug. 31 as the Brewers unveil the newest plaques on the Walk of Fame.

The voting panel for the honor includes media members from throughout Wisconsin, as well as Milwaukee Brewers executives.

 The Alabama Academy of Honor named **Hank Aaron** (OF/1B, 1954-74) among its four new members

for 2007. The Academy was established by state law to promote service to the state by recognizing living Alabamians whose accomplishments are especially meritorious. The formal induction ceremony for new members will be held Aug. 20 in the old House Chambers of the Alabama State Capitol. The event will be open to the public.

 **Frank Torre** (1B, 1956-60) had a kidney transplant on May 1. He received the kidney from one of his daughters, Elizabeth. Torre, 75, was profiled in the March '07 ChopTalk. He is the older brother of **Joe Torre** (C/1B, 1960-68).

 **Ralph McLeod** (OF, 1938) passed away April 27 at the age of 90 in Weymouth, Mass.

 **Red Schoendienst** (2B, 1957-60) has been added to the list of former players scheduled to attend the 50th Anniversary Reunion of the 1957 Braves World Championship team Aug. 30 at Milwaukee's Potawatomi Casino. The event is sold out, according to Bob Buege of the Milwaukee Braves Historical Association.

 **Orlando Cepeda** (1B, 1969-72) was stopped for speeding 40 miles northeast of San Francisco May 1, and the California Highway Patrol officer arrested him when marijuana and a white powder substance was found in the vehicle.

 **Charles Thomas** (OF, 2004) was traded from Oakland to Milwaukee for catcher J.D. Closser and was assigned to Triple-A Nashville.

 The Brewers put **Jose Capellan** (RHP, 2004) on the minor league restricted list April 18 after he failed to report to Triple-A Nashville.

 **Bruce Chen** (LHP, 1998-2000) was designated for assignment by Texas April 22.

## \* BIRTHDAYS \*

### JUNE

|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup>  | ROY MAJTYKA (68)           |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup>  | JACK PIERCE (59)           |
|                  | MIKE DAVEY (55)            |
|                  | MIKE STANTON (40)          |
|                  | KURT ABBOTT (38)           |
|                  | MIKE KELLY (37)            |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup>  | STEVE LYONS (47)           |
| 5 <sup>TH</sup>  | EDDIE JOOST (91)           |
|                  | RUSS ORTIZ (33)            |
| 6 <sup>TH</sup>  | CARL WILEY (78)            |
|                  | MERV RETTENMUND (64)       |
|                  | LARRY HOWARD (62)          |
|                  | TONY GRAFFANINO (35)       |
| 8 <sup>TH</sup>  | <b>PETE ORR (28)</b>       |
| 9 <sup>TH</sup>  | ROY SMALLEY (81)           |
| 10 <sup>TH</sup> | ELIAS SOSA (57)            |
|                  | RICK CAMP (54)             |
|                  | RANDY JOHNSON (51)         |
| 11 <sup>TH</sup> | FRANK THOMAS (78)          |
|                  | ODALIS PEREZ (30)          |
| 12 <sup>TH</sup> | RYAN KLESKO (36)           |
|                  | DAMON HOLLINS (33)         |
| 13 <sup>TH</sup> | ERNIE WHITT (55)           |
|                  | DARRELL MAY (35)           |
|                  | CORY ALDRIDGE (38)         |
| 15 <sup>TH</sup> | TY CLINE (68)              |
|                  | BRUCE DALCANTON (65)       |
|                  | AL CLOSTER (64)            |
|                  | KEN HENDERSON (61)         |
|                  | DUSTY BAKER (58)           |
|                  | BRETT BUTLER (50)          |
| 16 <sup>TH</sup> | ERNIE JOHNSON (83)         |
|                  | KEN JOHNSON (74)           |
|                  | WALLY JOYNER (45)          |
| 18 <sup>TH</sup> | TAYLOR PHILLIPS (74)       |
|                  | ANDRES GALARRAGA (46)      |
| 19 <sup>TH</sup> | BOB ASPROMONTE (69)        |
|                  | BRUCE CHEN (30)            |
| 20 <sup>TH</sup> | PAUL BAKO (35)             |
| 21 <sup>ST</sup> | MIKE BEARD (57)            |
|                  | LUIS RIVERA (29)           |
| 22 <sup>ND</sup> | <b>WILLIE HARRIS (29)</b>  |
| 23 <sup>RD</sup> | DAVE BRISTOL (74)          |
|                  | JOHN RABB (47)             |
| 25 <sup>TH</sup> | HUMBERTO ROBINSON (77)     |
|                  | ALEJANDRO PEÑA (48)        |
|                  | BRAD WOODALL (38)          |
|                  | MICHAEL TUCKER (36)        |
| 26 <sup>TH</sup> | GIL GARRIDO (66)           |
|                  | BILL ROBINSON (64)         |
| 27 <sup>TH</sup> | JOHNNY ESTRADA (31)        |
|                  | DARYLE WARD (32)           |
|                  | <b>CHRIS WOODWARD (31)</b> |
| 28 <sup>TH</sup> | DON BAYLOR (58)            |
|                  | KEVIN MCGLINCHY (30)       |
| 29 <sup>TH</sup> | BOB SHAW (74)              |
|                  | JIMMY FREEMAN (56)         |
|                  | EDDIE MILLER (50)          |
|                  | PABLO MARTINEZ (38)        |
|                  | TREY HODGES (29)           |





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Braves.com

**PUBLISHER**

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Wonderdog Publishing, Inc.

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**PRINTER**

Publisher's Press

**SUBSCRIBER SERVICES**

AccuFil, Inc.

**CIRCULATION CONSULTANT**

Douglas W. Florenzie

**BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

Rob Calcutta

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Send address changes or corrections to:  
ChopTalk, P.O. Box 922847, Norcross,  
Ga. 30010-2847 or call 1-877-655-CHOP  
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## IN THE BEGINNING...

**BOB BEALL SAW IT** all begin back in 1978 - that ignominious start that gave no clue where Bobby Cox's career would lead.

Beall was a non-roster invitee to Braves spring training that year in West Palm Beach, Fla., becoming the first to benefit from Cox's willingness to give anyone and everyone a fair shake to make the team. Make it, Beall did, appearing in 108 games - almost three-quarters of his career total - for a team that lost 93 games. Yet it did win the first 69 games of the 2,195 on Cox's ledger that on May 12 put him in fourth place on the all-time managerial victory list.

It could be said that Beall's time with the Braves was but a blip on his life experience, but that can never be said of a major league career, even if it lasts but one game. So, in spite of the fact that Beall has gone on to carve quite a career over the last quarter century with one of the most recognized and admired corporate giants of our time, he keeps Cox with him every working day.

"Actually, one of my colleagues is a real sports fan and has a bunch of cards," Beall, 59, said from his home in Hillsborough, Oregon. "He's a big Phillies fan, and he gets really frustrated every time the Braves knock them out again. One day, he brought me a baseball card of Bobby, and I still have it sitting on my computer in my office."

Beall is operations manager for the Jordan line of apparel marketed by a little sneaker maker known as Nike. Andruw Jones is a pitchman for the Jordan line ("He was out here for a meeting, and my manager introduced us," Beall said. "I told him I wore number 25, too, and that I left all the dingers in it for him!")

Before his Nike career began, Beall would have been known as a "journeyman" first baseman - except that he didn't have enough big league stickers on his suitcase to qualify for that title. Prior to '78, his major league experience consisted of 20 games with the 1975 Braves. And after appearing in 108 games in '78 (hitting .243 with his only

career "dinger" and 16 RBIs), the remainder of his career amounted to 17 games with the '79 Braves and three with the 1980 Pirates. Period.

That in itself tells you about all you really need to know about Cox's first managerial assignment. Yes, he did have a young Dale Murphy in '78, and in June got a young Bob Horner. Phil Niekro was on the pitching staff. But there wasn't much else.

It could be that winning 69 games that season really was a good indicator that Cox was embarking on one of the great managerial careers in history. If only we'd known!

But one could have known, not even Braves owner Ted Turner, who fired Cox following the 1981 "split season" marred by a players' strike and a pitiful turnstile count of 535,418 at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium.

Or was it possible to sense that Cox was better than a last-place manager, that he had the Braves on the verge of something good - the division title Joe Torre won when he took over for Cox in '82?

"Even that first year, you could tell that Bobby had a really great way of dealing with players," said Beall, pointing to the trait of being a "players' manager" that has earned Cox so many compliments as his success has mushroomed.

"He expected a lot of us, but he wasn't the hard-edged type that was on your case. He knew how to treat players as people. He knew we all wanted to succeed, and even though we didn't have a lot of success, he was able to get all 25 guys pulling together to try to win. It was frustrating for him, because he's a competitive guy, but he was good to me. He gave me my big break, and I'll always be a big supporter of his because of that."

Sounds familiar. The next player who says anything negative about Cox will be the first. It was that way in 1978, and it remains the same nearly three decades later.

**THIS ISSUE OF CHOPTALK** was mailed May 22. The July issue will be mailed June 22.



# BEYOND BASEBALL

Erin and Chris Woodward welcome their new son, Mason Joaquin, an adopted child of Guatemalan descent.

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN



## NEW ARRIVAL

**AFTER MONTHS OF WAITING** for a child to come up for adoption, **Chris Woodward** and his wife, **Erin**, welcomed their second child, a son, on May 1. The couple has a daughter, **Sophie**, 5. **Mason Joaquin Woodward** weighed in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces, and is of Guatemalan descent, though he was born in Atlanta. The Woodwards originally planned to adopt a child from China before hearing about Joaquin, who was expected in early May and needed an adoptive family quickly. Woodward was at the hospital for most of the birth mother's labor but left the hospital in order to get to the ballpark for the night's game against the Phillies.

"By the time I got [to Turner Field], my wife called and said, 'She's starting to push,'" said Woodward. Joaquin was born about five minutes later, at 7 p.m. "I was glad he was born before the game started or it would have been hard to concentrate," added Woodward, who returned to the hospital immediately after the game to get a first glimpse of his son. "We stayed there until 2 a.m.," he said. The couple brought Joaquin home two days later.



**SKIP CARAY BASKED** in the glow of parental pride on April 29 when he worked an inning of play by play with his youngest son, **Josh**, the radio voice of the Rome Braves.

"With all due respect to **Lou Gehrig**, he's got nothing on me," said Caray, referring to Gehrig's 'luckiest man on the face of this Earth' speech. "I've gotten to work with my father and both my sons."

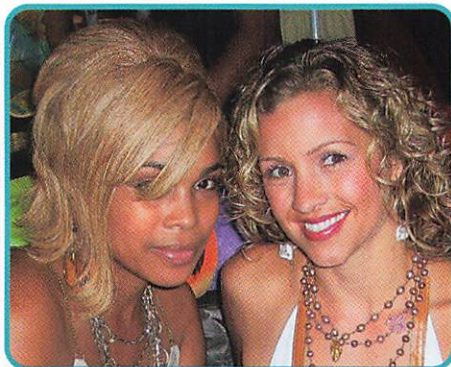
After working an inning with Josh, Caray watched the rest of the game in the stands at State Mutual Stadium with his wife, **Paula**. Though the family went out to dinner that evening in Rome, Caray made sure the team was also well-fed, arranging for a fantastic post-game spread that included steaks and ribs with all the trimmings...

**Andruw** and **Nicole Jones** hosted a trunk show charity event on May 4. The show featured children's clothing from Chase's Closet, a children's boutique in Houston, Tex., owned by **Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins**, formerly of the Grammy winning R&B group TLC. All proceeds from merchandise purchased that evening went to the Joneses' favorite charity, Jaden's Ladder, an

organization that supports women and children affected by domestic violence. Braves wives who attended were **Kim Hudson (Tim)**, **Leslee Diaz (Matt)**, **Kelly Thorman (Scott)**, **Liesel Yates (Tyler)**, **Tracy Butts** (baseball systems operator and bullpen catcher **Alan Butts**), and **Carmen Smith** (Braves video guru **Rob Smith**). Carmen shared the news that she is expecting the couple's first child later this year.

Though the event took place during the first game of the Braves-Dodgers series, the party was still rolling by the time Andruw arrived home, accompanied by teammates **Jeff Francoeur** and his fiancée, **Catie McCoy**, and **Brian McCann** and his fiancée, **Ashley Jarusinski**. Former Braves shortstop **Rafael Furcal**, now with the Dodgers, dropped by for a quick hello. According to Nicole, the event raised \$15,000. "Not too bad for a little house party," she said...

**Gary Yates**, father of **Tyler Yates**, visited his son and daughter-in-law, **Liesel**, for the Braves' homestand from May 1-10. Like his son, **Gary** also lives on Kauai, Hawaii. He plans to return to Atlanta in September to watch the Braves



Nicole Jones (R) at her trunk show charity event with former TLC member "T-Boz."





close out the regular season. Yates' youngest brother, **Kirby**, 19, was to visit Atlanta from Hawaii for one week during the Braves' final homestand in May, just in time to help his brother pack and move furniture. The Yateses were to close on their Roswell townhome on May 22...

**Ashley Saltalamacchia** was in Connecticut helping her sister, **Suzanna Wanicka**, pack her household belongings for a move to Florida when the phone rang, very late, or very early, on May 2. "It was 1 a.m., but we were up, packing," said Ashley. "The phone rang and it was Jarrod telling us he'd been called up to Atlanta. At first I thought he was joking, but he said it was for real. I told him, 'Well this is a Happy Birthday!'" Ashley immediately got on the computer to book a flight for herself and daughter, **Sidney** (4 months). After several delays, Ashley, Sidney and her sister arrived in Atlanta at 6:10 p.m. and managed to be at Turner Field by the time the game started. Also on hand, **Jerry** and **Marcie Winebrenner**, Salty's grandparents, who were with him in Montgomery, Ala., when he got the call, and his mother, **Jeri**, who came up from Florida. His father, **John** arrived for the weekend series vs. the Dodgers...

**Nicole Jones** was able to combine a trip to Boston to watch the Braves and Red Sox, with a side trip on May 19 to Rye, New Hampshire, to attend the Summers Night Dream Benefit. Held at the scenic Wentworth By The Sea Country Club, the event benefits Jaden's Ladder and featured dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions. Also making the trip to Boston were **Kim Hudson** and daughters **Kennedie**, 5, and **Tess**, 3, and **Liezel Yates**, making her first visit to historic Fenway Park...

**Kelly Thorman** and infant son, **Robbie**, traveled to their off-season home, Cambridge, Ontario, about an hour from Toronto, Canada, while the Braves took their May 11-20 road trip. It was the first chance many of their family members had to meet Robbie, who was born on Mar. 23 in Atlanta...

**John Smoltz** graced the cover of the May-July issue of "Foodsharing," the quarterly newsletter of the Atlanta Community Food Bank (ACFB). The feature story told of Smoltz's longtime commitment to the ACFB's mission through his participation in the successful Strike Out Hunger fundraising campaign, Hunger Awareness Day, and his annual stint as guest chef at the



Salty's Army (L-R): Sister-in-law Suzanna Wanicka, agent Jim Munsey, wife Ashley, mother Jeri (holding Sidney), and grandmother Marcie Winebrenner.

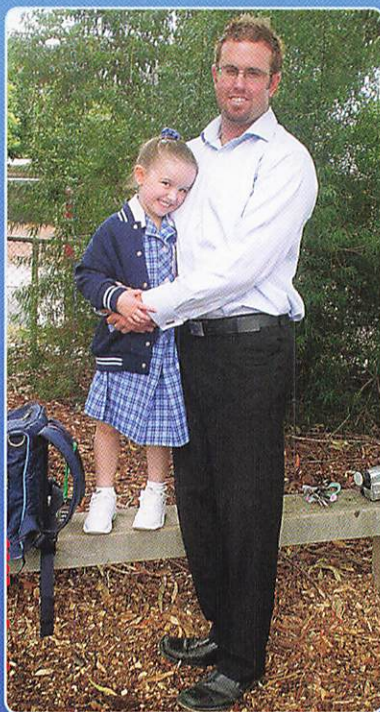
Thanksgiving Dish, when professional athletes and members of the local media join to prepare over 2,000 meals for those in need...

**Tim and Kim Hudson** presented a check for \$85,301, to the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation. The money was raised through their Birdies and Baseball golf weekend held in Orlando during spring training. Kim also organized a team of

walkers who participated in the April 21 Walk for Wishes, held at Atlantic Station in Midtown Atlanta. Several Braves wives, including **Nicole Jones**, **Liezel Yates**, **Jill Wilson (Craig)** and **Rena Millwood**, wife of former Braves pitcher **Kevin Millwood**, were among the team members who raised \$7,825 out of the total \$100,000...

If dogs could talk, Larry Caray would probably call himself the luckiest dog on the face of the Earth. The golden retriever/chow mix (Feb. 2007 CT) was rescued from the Atlanta Humane Society last December and made his television debut on May 6, when he joined **Skip** and his son, **Chip Caray**, in the TBS broadcast booth for the first of two Bark in the Park days at Turner Field this year.

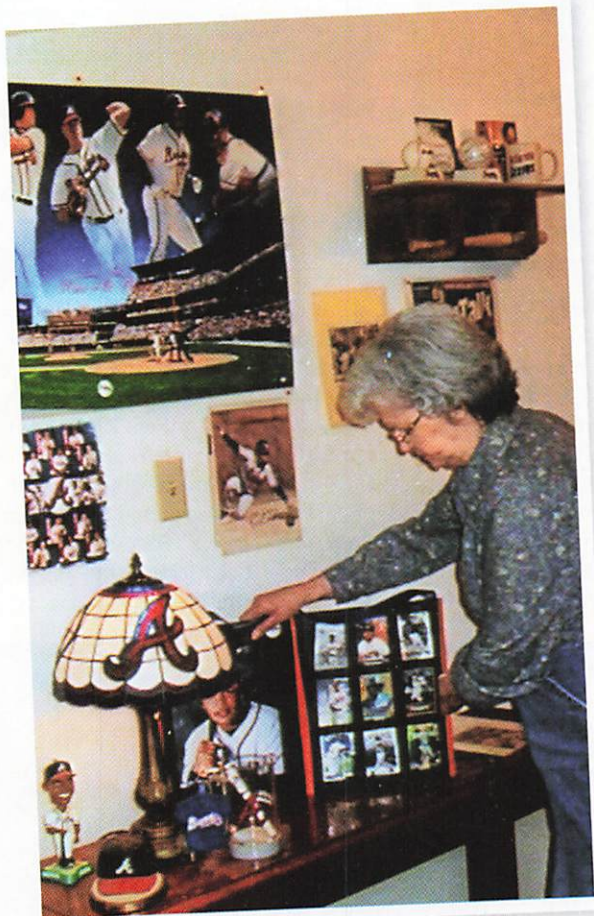
## REMOTE CONNECTION



Peter Moylan doesn't get to see his daughter, Montana, during the season because she's home in Australia with her mother, Tracey, who is expecting the couple's second child.

**PETER AND TRACEY Moylan** are expecting their second child in late July. They have a 6-year-old daughter, **Montana**. Due to Tracey's pregnancy and the long trip from their home in Australia, she and Montana will remain in Australia during the season, meaning Moylan won't see his newborn child until after the season. "It's a big sacrifice for all of us," said Moylan. "But we think it will be worth it." Via e-mail, Tracey agreed, "As you can imagine, being over the other side of the world from Pete has it's downside, but we get to see a lot of articles and pictures, and it just makes the huge sacrifice we're making that much easier to bear. Pete, Montana and I are in constant contact. We just continue to focus on how well he is going over there and the new baby we're expecting in July, etc., but seeing all these articles also helps to keep us going. Not to mention also makes us very proud!" The Moylans declined to learn the baby's gender before birth, preferring the element of surprise.





## ALL FOR ANDRUW

Here is a picture of my Wall of Fame. I especially enjoyed the April issue of ChopTalk because it features my favorite player - Andruw Jones. I love Andruw's never-ending smile and his abilities in the outfield and with the bat. He is terrific, and I hope he'll always be a Brave. I'm so happy the season is here. I live for this!

**DOROTHY ZOLLINGER**  
Nashport, Ohio

## SWEET TOOTH

My 89-year-old mother, Betty Boye, of Bristol, Va., watches the Braves religiously, and I call her Bobby Cox's assistant manager. He signed a picture for her when I took her to spring training a couple of years ago. I couldn't have given her a better present. She was like a kid in a candy shop.

**DR. EDWARD BOYE**  
Turtletown, Tenn.

## FUTURE DRAFT PICK

Liam Childs Faraji, six months young, is a third-generation Braves fan! Papa Rudy and Grandma Linda have been fans since 1969, and mother Amanda has been a fan since 1994. We watch as many Braves games as Turner Broadcasting will allow. Liam will attend his first Braves game in September when the Braves visit the Colorado Rockies. We, as a family, have not missed a Braves-Rockies series since the Rockies have been in existence (1993). Liam is already practicing his throws for a tryout with the Braves and is a possible draft pick in 2024.

**RUDY T. APODACA**  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

## ROAD WARRIORS

Last summer, my mother, brother and I, along with our neighbors, drove west across country from our home in Tennessee outside of Memphis. My dad was working in Iraq, so we decided to take a road trip. We're all huge baseball fans, so we plotted our trip according to the Braves schedule. We were able to catch them in Phoenix against the Diamondbacks and followed them to San Diego to watch them play the Padres. My family has been Braves fans since before I was born. We watch every game we can and read ChopTalk every month. We're looking forward to seeing the Braves re-claim the NL East in 2007.

**TYLER BYRD**  
Collierville, Tenn.

## LITTLE/BIG FAN

I'm a life-long - all of 4 months - Braves fan. All I hear around the house is about "those Braves." Just pass me a bottle, and I'm good for nine innings.

**LANDON RIGSBY**  
Anderson, S.C.





## SMOLTZ'S ALL-STAR

This is Bonnie Hobbs, who is one of the Braves' biggest fans and also one of the best teachers at Kings Ridge Christian School. She is a reading specialist who signed on five years ago when John Smoltz and a group of parents decided to start Kings Ridge. Her faith and strong desire to teach make her a favorite among the students. Mrs. Hobbs designed her room with a Braves format, full of baseballs, pictures and an autograph or two. Many children bring her Braves items, and they always enjoy talking about the games. Mrs. Hobbs is an all-star to the children at Kings Ridge.

DEE DAVENPORT  
Alpharetta, Ga.



## PROUD IN CAROLINA

I am an 85-year-old devoted Braves fan. I've been to a number of games at Turner Field and Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium before that. Although they didn't win the division in 2006, I still supported them, and I'm very proud of what they've accomplished over the years. I know they'll be back on top in 2007.

LOUISE RILEY  
Spencer, N.C.

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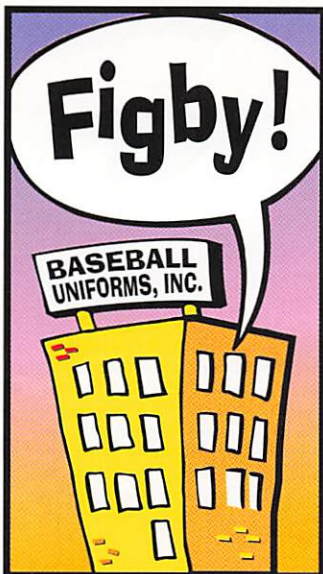
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For the Braves players, Bobby Cox, the coaches, broadcasters, or members of the front office.

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## A RECORD: FOURTEEN LETTERS!





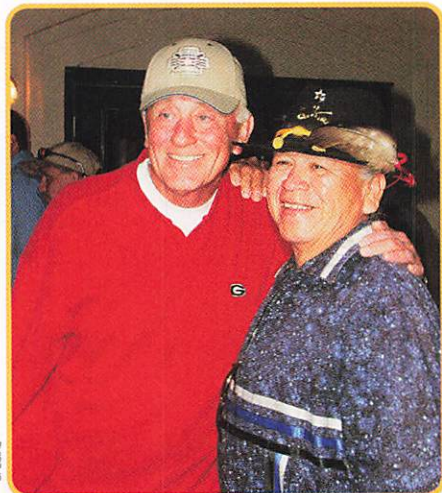
# XTRA INNINGS

## "THE CHIEF" SURFACES AT GOLF EVENT

**FORMER BRAVES** Phil Niekro (RHP, 1964-83, '87), Alejandro Pena (RHP, 1991-92, '95) and Chris Chambliss (1B, 1980-86) were among the celebrities who helped raise money for United Way on April 18 at the Fifth Annual White County Celebrity Golf Tournament at the Innsbruck Resort Golf Club in Helen, Ga. But there was another "former Brave" in attendance who seemed just as popular with people at the event.

Levi Walker Jr., better known to Braves fans as Chief Noc-A-Homa, also took part in the festivities.

"He hasn't changed a bit," said Darrel Chaney, the former Braves infielder (1976-79) who runs the event. "Some of the people were crazy about him. I didn't even invite him. One of the ladies who works at the course knew him and told him about it. He's working at a Wal-Mart in Macon, I believe!"



Phil Niekro and Levi Walker Jr., a.k.a. Chief Noc-A-Homa, mug for the camera at a recent golf event.

Walker, who said he was three-quarters Ottawa and one-quarter Cherokee, was a fixture at Atlanta Stadium (later Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium) for 17 years (1969-85). Before every game, he did a "war dance" on the pitcher's mound, then sprinted to his left field "home" - a tepee in the stands. He did a dance every time a Brave hit a home run, and his "war cries" could be heard throughout the stadium during games, especially since attendance in those years often was quite sparse.

In 1981, owner Ted Turner ordered Noc-A-Homa's tepee removed to accommodate more seats. The Braves lost 19 of the next 21 games, and the tepee was promptly replaced.

### IN THE NEWS

Oh, those Mets fans! Frank Martinez, 40, was sentenced to 15 days in jail and banned from Mets home games for three years after pleading guilty to charges of shining a high-powered flashlight at Edgar Renteria and Tim Hudson April 20 at Shea Stadium. And the Braves still won, 7-3!

The Red Sox hit four straight home runs April 22 against the Yankees, the second of which came off the bat of former Brave J.D. Drew (2004). It was the fifth time in history that a team hit four in a row. The first (still the only time in NL history) took place June 8, 1961, when Eddie Mathews, Hank Aaron, Joe Adcock and Frank Thomas of the Milwaukee Braves homered in succession during the seventh inning at

Cincinnati's Crosley Field. The Braves trailed, 10-2, at the time, and despite the record-setting comeback attempt, still lost, 10-8.

Former Brave and current Met Tom Glavine (1987-2002) and the Phillies Jamie Moyer became the oldest lefties in combined age (85 years, 163 days) to pitch against each other April 12. Less than two weeks later, Randy Johnson and David Wells (87 years, 200 days) surpassed them. But the lefties still have a way to go to pass the all-time oldest matchup by a familiar pair of righthanders - Phil Niekro and Don Sutton - who clocked in at 90 years, 135 days when they faced each other June 8, 1987.

### GLAD YOU ASKED

#### SPORT YOU'D LIKE TO TRY

BRIAN MCCANN: Tennis  
KYLE DAVIES: Monster Truck Rally  
TYLER YATES: Snowboarding  
CHAD PARONTO: Water Polo

#### FAVORITE REALITY SHOW

CRAIG WILSON: Survivor  
MATT DIAZ: Survivor  
KELLY JOHNSON: Apprentice  
BRIAN MCCANN: Rob & Big (MTV)  
KYLE DAVIES: Maui Fever (MTV)  
TYLER YATES: American Idol

#### WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE?

PETE ORR: Clint Eastwood  
TYLER YATES: Brad Pitt

## FAN CLUBS

### BRAVES 400 CLUB

The Braves 400 Club is the official fan club of the Atlanta Braves. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting baseball at all levels. Annual membership is \$25 and includes a newsletter and the opportunity to participate in activities such as road trips, luncheons, the annual banquet, and charitable events. Send payment to: Braves 400 Club, P.O. Box 7689, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. For more information, call the organization's hotline at (770) 416-4539 or visit [www.braves400.org](http://www.braves400.org).

### MILWAUKEE BRAVES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Milwaukee Braves Historical Association is a non-profit organization that promotes the memory of the Milwaukee Braves (1953-65). Annual membership is \$25 and includes a newsletter. Send payment to: Milwaukee Braves Historical Association, c/o Express News, W130 N10437 Washington Dr., Germantown, Wisc. 53022. For information, call (414) 347-1212.

### BOSTON BRAVES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Boston Braves Historical Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping alive the memory of the Braves in the city where the franchise began in 1871 and that it represented through 1952. Annual membership is \$15 and includes a newsletter. Send payment to: Boston Braves Historical Association, P.O. Box 5668, Marlboro, Mass. 01752. For more information, call (508) 485-1423 or visit [Boston-braves.com](http://Boston-braves.com). Oct. 7 - Annual reunion.

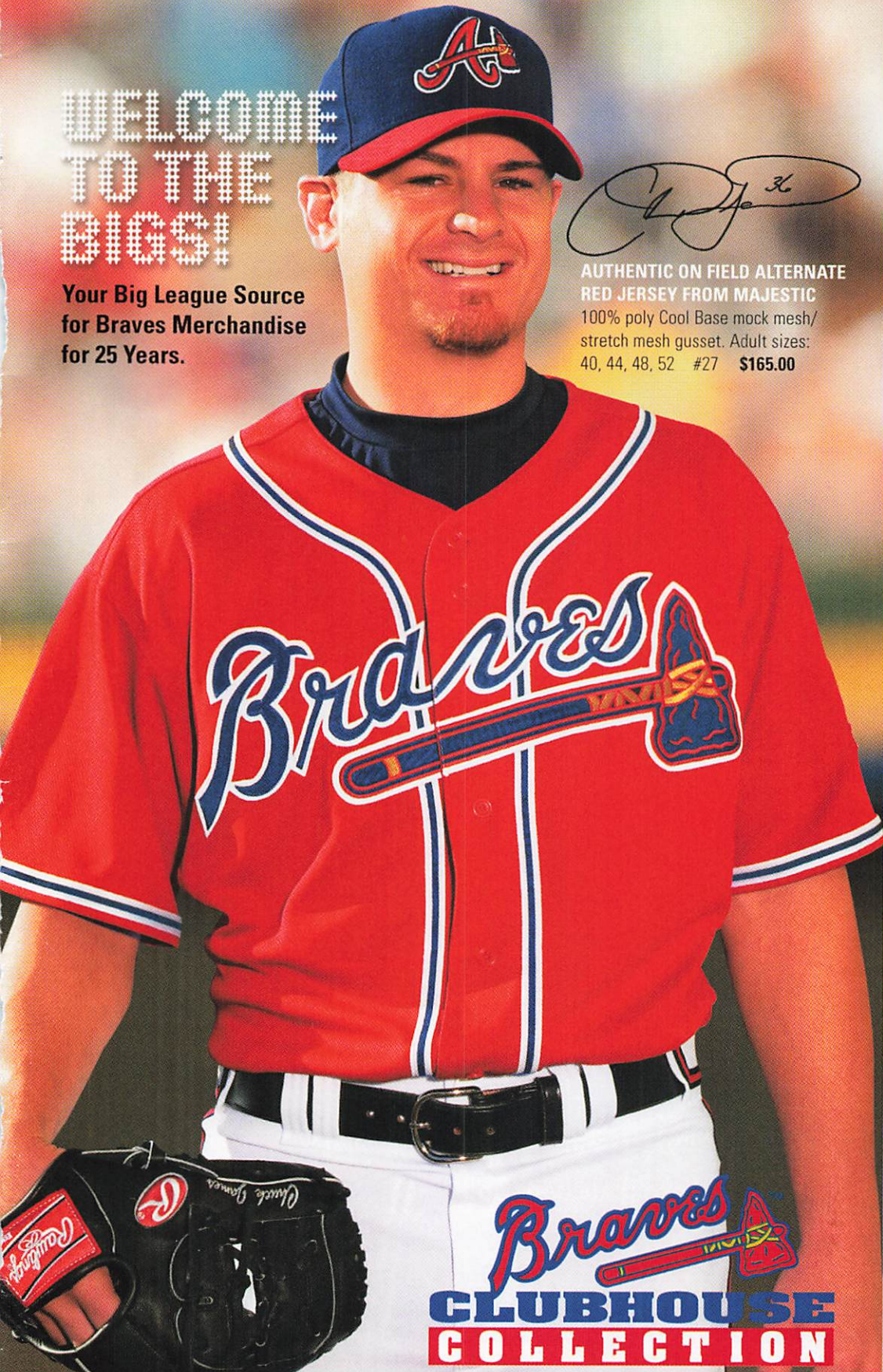


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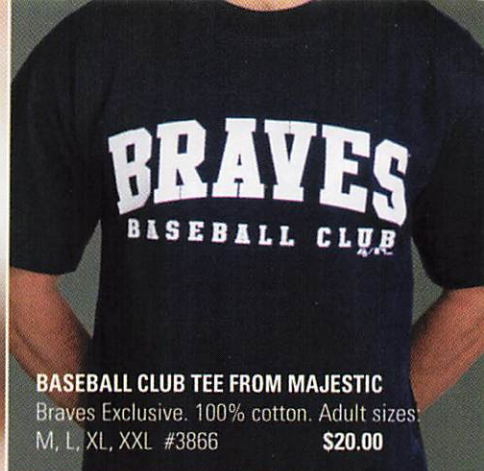
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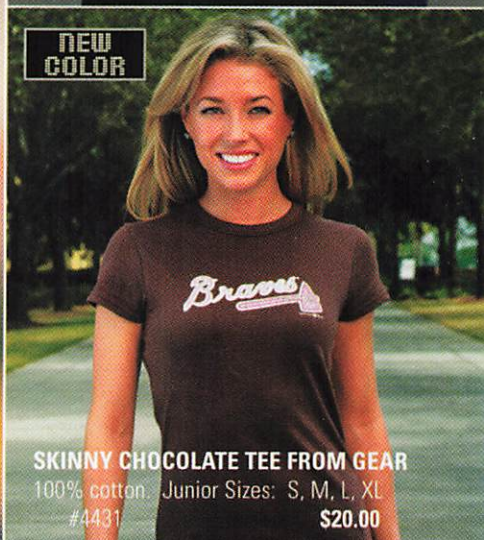
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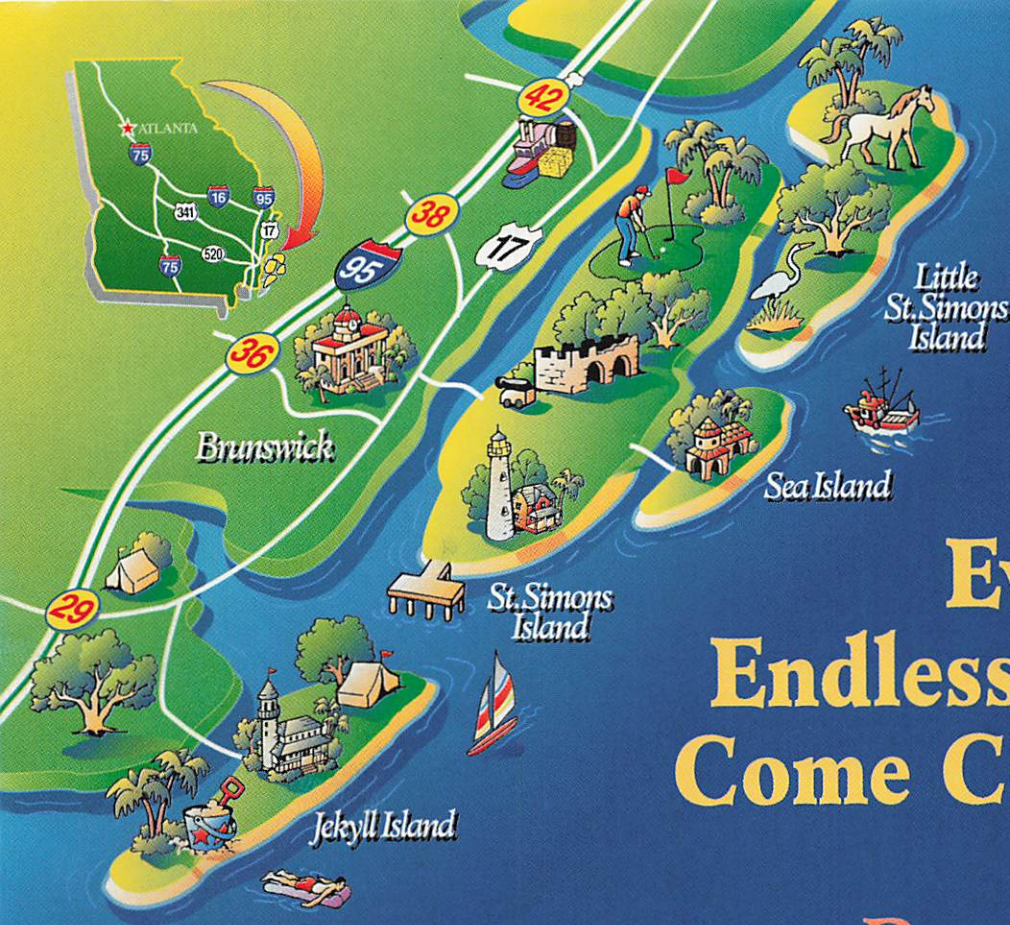
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